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Parliament long way off

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah said in remarks published yesterday that restoration of Kuwait's Parliament, suspended in 1986, could take "a long time".

Sheikh Saad made the remarks in an interview published in a Kuwaiti daily. The Crown Prince said there was a consensus that the current nationwide debate on the future of democracy should continue. He said the aim was to find the most suitable formula for the restoration of parliamentary life.

"The constructive dialogue must continue," he said. "So, let it take the time it deserves, to find a formula that will avert another crisis for the nation."

"This might take a long time, and I am prepared for that," he said. "Kuwait's interest is in taking time, not in being hasty."

Sheikh Saad is currently holding talks with prominent former deputies and the speaker of the dissolved Parliament, to explore their views on democracy.

There were reasons which led to the failure of the 1976 and 1986 experiments "in parliamentary democracy," he said. "After 1986, we have to be careful, and continue the dialogue to reach the most suitable formula for us."

HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, dissolved Parliament on July 3, 1986 after accusing deputies of causing divisions in society, at a time when the Iran-Iraq war threatened to spill over into Kuwait.

(Continued on Page 11)

Troop cut agreed

Six-power group on German unity

OTTAWA, Feb 14, (Reuters): Foreign ministers from East and West announced yesterday a long-sought agreement on cutting US and Soviet troops in Europe and agreed that a six-power group should be formed to oversee German unification.

Prospects for a conventional forces treaty for Europe this year were strengthened by a troop-cut compromise that would allow the United States to deploy 30,000 more troops in Europe than the Soviet Union.

It marked a significant concession by Moscow. Senior Bush Administration officials insisted on the numbers, which they had argued would symbolise the West's victory in the last stages of the cold war.

(See Page 8)

Release praised

KUWAIT, Feb 14, (Kuna): Sheikh Fahd Al Abdullah, president of both the Olympic Council of Asia and Kuwait Olympic Committee has sent a message to African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, a press release said today.

Sheikh Fahd said, he welcomed the release of Mandela with joy and great satisfaction, and that the Asian and Kuwaiti sports movements were very proud of him.

In his message Sheikh Fahd sincerely hoped that the present and efforts exerted on South Africa will accelerate the downfall of the apartheid system and will pave the way for a new, racial society in that country.

Sheikh Fahd also extended an open invitation to Mandela to meet with the youth of Asia.

In the meantime, preparations are underway for next Monday's meeting of the International Olympic Committee's Apartheid and Olympic Commission in Kuwait.

ANC targets

Nelson Mandela, said on Wednesday South African government installations were legitimate targets for the African National Congress (ANC) armed struggle against apartheid.

The freed black nationalist leader, asked if guerrillas would include targets like shopping centres in the ANC campaign against white rule, told the BBC "we are concerned with government installations."

While civilians would not be deliberately attacked but could be caught in crossfire, Mandela had been questioned about his endorsement on release from prison on Sunday of ANC guerrilla warfare. (See Page 7)

90 die in crash

IA Airbus bursts into flames: 56 survive

By Thomas Abraham Arab Times correspondent

BANGALORE, Feb 14: An Indian Airlines jet crashed and burst into flames while landing at the Bangalore Airport in southern India today killing 90 people. Fifty six passengers survived.

The Airbus-320 crashed at 1.05 pm, local time, on a golf course near the airport, rolled and hit a parapet and halted 1,400 feet away from the runway.

The craft's tail was intact but its fuselage was shattered and charred and the nose smashed. The flight originated in Bombay.

Civil Aviation Minister Arif Mohammad Khan, who arrived in Bangalore, has ordered an inquiry, headed by a high court judge. He also inspected the site of the accident.

Khan also announced government compensation of Rs.500,000 to the dead's next of kin.

He said: "It was unfortunate that the mishap had occurred when efforts were being made to improve the performance of the airline."

President Venkataraman and Prime Minister V.P. Singh have expressed "shock and sorrow" at the tragic accident.

The cause of the crash is not known.

Karnesh Mehta, a businessman from Bombay, said: "There was utter confusion."

American John Manosky of Chicago said: "A fellow American did not make it." He was going to Bangalore to conduct a training programme for Honeywell Computers.

There were at least 10 foreigners on board the flight.

An airline spokesman in New Delhi said there were at least 17 foreigners on the flight. They included two Americans, a Frenchman and a Hong Kong man, all of whom survived.

Information about the others would take time, the spokesman said, because tickets did not list their nationalities.

One survivor, speaking from his hospital bed said: "The flight was coming in to land at Bangalore airport. Suddenly it lost height and I couldn't see the airport or runway... and suddenly it happened," he said.

An employee of the Gulf club said he saw the aircraft losing height amid a ball of fire. The pre-landing communication did not indicate any abnormal conditions. Airline officials said the flight was scheduled to land in four minutes and had been cleared. The conversation between the pilot and the flight control was normal. The black box, which has been found, was sealed for further investigation.

Most of those killed were seated in the front section of the aircraft, which was totally destroyed. A majority of bodies were charred beyond recognition. Among those killed was 48-year-old industrialist A.V. Biria, who was coming to Bangalore for the opening of his new office. A newly married couple perished in the crash.

Four of the seven crew members also died including Flight Commander Captain S.S. Gopikar, a senior pilot who had logged 10,000 hours on Boeing and 260 hours on Airbus. The co-pilot was Cyril Fernandes.

Capt. Gopikar had undergone training in Airbus Industrie in Toulouse, France, and was known to be an excellent pilot. On the recommendation of the Airbus Industries, he was selected for the job.

MANAMA, Feb 14, (AP): A long-time British nurse sentenced to a two-month jail term in Qatar on charges of wilfully harming an infant girl said today she remained baffled as to why she had been convicted.

"I am at a loss. Everyone is baffled," said Mrs. Valerie Coakes, 49, of Manchester, about the case involving the infant's "virginity."

Coakes, who spoke to the Associated Press by telephone from Bahrain, said that included the Dutch head of the gynaecology department at the Hamid Medical Corporation, where she was working, and his Egyptian assistant.

Last June, while she was on duty at the hospital, a National Health Service establishment for Qatar, she found a bedouin mother frantically complaining about her 1 1/2-year-old girl "having lost her virginity"—a serious problem in oriental societies.

"The mother apparently was accusing me of inserting a suppository into the vagina," said Coakes, denying this. "I used standard procedure... and I remember very clearly where I inserted the suppository."

Coakes, a mother of three in England, and already a grandmother of two, said she was qualified in 1962 as a specialist nurse for children, receiving her training at the Dutchess of York Hospital for babies and at Booth Hall Children's Hospital in Manchester.

"The mother appeared distraught and worried... but I did not think she would go out and call the police," said Coakes.

While the hospital "conducted its investigation and exonerated me," the police doctor, an Egyptian female pathologist, insisted in her report that the hymen had been torn, Coakes said.



File photo of an A 320 Airbus, similar to one which crashed in Bangalore. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tajik unrest worsens

MOSCOW, Feb 14, (Agencies): Mikhail Gorbachev, facing possible mutiny in his army, sent paratroopers to the besieged Central Asian city of Dushanbe today and vowed to quash Muslim Tajik extremists pursuing "narrow egoistical aims."

Young rioters with metal rods and firebombs spread their rampages to the suburbs of the Tajik capital to push their demands for the resignation of the Muslim Republic's communist and government leaders and the disbandment of its KGB security agency.

"Reinforcement airborne subdivisions, armed with special technical equipment to defend the peaceful population against pogroms and to guard government establishments, arrived in Dushanbe today in the afternoon," the official Tass news agency said.

"After a relatively quiet night, the situation in the city again has sharply deteriorated," Tass said.

The Tajik Communist Party's Central Committee headquarters came under attack for a third day as party leaders held an emergency meeting to try to stem (Continued on Page 9)

Blood money collected

ABU DHABI, Feb 14, (AP): The Pakistani community saved a young Pakistani from the gallows at the last moment by collecting "blood money," members of the community said today.

Farhat Mahmood, 24, a villager from the town of Jujar Khan, 30 miles south of Rawalpindi, was to have been executed in Abu Dhabi at dawn yesterday.

He was convicted of manslaughter and his execution sanctioned by the Sharia, court of Abu Dhabi.

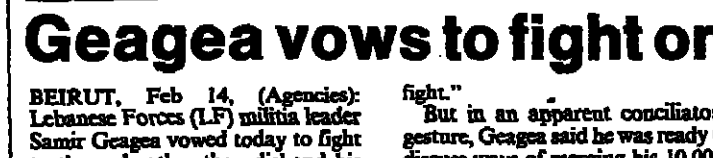
The court finally set the date for his execution, but as it approached a Pakistani consulate came up with the "brilliant idea" of asking the Pakistani embassy for help.

"Officially we could not do anything, but we passed on the message to the Pakistani Cultural Centre," said Anis Pervez, Press Attaché at the Pakistani Embassy in Abu Dhabi.

About 2,000 appeals were written and printed in Urdu, and sent to the Pakistani community members to respond with donations on Feb 8 at the centre. About 200,000 Pakistanis make up the second largest expatriate community.

"The response was unprecedented," said Anwar. "In two hours on Feb 8, we not only collected the \$5,000 dirhams blood money, but even over 30,000 dirhams (\$8,000) more, with children donating their few coins and women donating jewelry."

The money was paid to the victim's family at the Islamic court, and the three judges relieved Farhat from the execution, court officials confirmed.



See Page 7

Wish for hostage

A leftist Beirut newspaper published Wednesday a Valentine's Day message addressed to American hostage Thomas Sutherland, missing in Lebanon for more than four years, from his family.

The message, carried by As-Safir daily in English and Arabic, was accompanied by a picture showing Sutherland's wife Jean and family. It read:

"We send ourselves with special Valentine love and a prayer that it finds you in heart and health.

"May the warmth and mutuality of our caring prevail.

"As ever and for aye,

"Joan, Ann, Simone, Jean and Kit."

See Page 7

Geagea vows to fight on

BEIRUT, Feb 14, (Agencies): Lebanese Forces (LF) militia leader Samir Geagea vowed today to fight to the end rather than disband his men as ordered by General Michel Aoun, fuelling fears of more bloodshed in Lebanon's inter-Christian conflict.

As Aoun called up army reservists in apparent preparation for an onslaught against his LF militia rivals, a clean-shaven but red-eyed Geagea told a news conference:

"He is mad, he is mad... we don't accept the elimination of the Lebanese Forces. We will fight, we will fight."

But in an apparent conciliatory gesture, Geagea said he was ready to discuss ways of merging his 10,000-man militia and the 15,000-strong army loyal to Aoun.

"I don't accept to discuss the existence of the resistance (LF) or our political freedoms. We have given everything to general Aoun but we will not give him ourselves."

"This is complete madness. We want to maintain all our Lebanese resources including our military might."

(Continued on Page 13)

Don't veto: Soviet envoy urges US

Hamas orders attacks on settlers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 14, (Reuters): Palestinian organisers of a 26-month-old uprising today ordered attacks on settlers in Israeli-occupied Arab territories to protest at the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

In separate leaflets distributed secretly in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, both the pro-PLO unified leadership of the uprising and its main rival, the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement, said the influx of Soviet Jews endangered the survival of the Palestinian people.

"In confronting attempts to settle new Jewish immigrants in our Palestinian state, the unified leadership of the uprising calls on the strike forces to increase attacks on settlers and to burn the land under their feet," the pro-PLO leaders said.

The hardline Hamas, opposing Jewish immigration to Israel as well as the territories, called for severing ties with Washington and branded

Insertion of suppository lands UK nurse in trouble in Qatar

MANAMA, Feb 14, (AP): A long-time British nurse sentenced to a two-month jail term in Qatar on charges of wilfully harming an infant girl said today she remained baffled as to why she had been convicted.

"I am at a loss. Everyone is baffled," said Mrs. Valerie Coakes, 49, of Manchester, about the case involving the infant's "virginity."

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"The mother appeared distraught and worried... but I did not think she would go out and call the police," said Coakes.

While the hospital "conducted its investigation and exonerated me," the police doctor, an Egyptian female pathologist, insisted in her report that the hymen had been torn, Coakes said.

Perrier withdraws its mineral water

PARIS, Feb 14, (AP): The president of Perrier, Gustave Leven, announced today that the company had decided to withdraw its mineral water from worldwide distribution.

Leven told a news conference the company took the step because "half measures were not possible."

Traces of benzene have been found in samples of the water in the United States, Canada, the Netherlands and Denmark in recent days.

News of the problem has driven the company's stock down 279 francs or \$49 a share from its closing price on Friday. (See Page 15)

Weather

FAIR weather with light southeasterly wind changing to light variable wind.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 3.00 am, 3.00 pm

Low water: 9.00 am, 10.00 pm

Sea: 5.29 m

Speed: 5.37 km

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 22°C 72°F

Ahmed: 17°C 63°F

Falaka: 19°C 66°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 9°C 48°F

Ahmed: 12°C 54°F

Falaka: 12°C 54°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 21°C 70°F

Ahmed: 18°C 64°F

Falaka: 18°C 64°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 90 per cent

Ahmed: 86 per cent

Falaka: 78 per cent

Manila declares red alert amid coup rumours

MANILA, Feb 14, (Reuters): The Philippine military has declared a nationwide red alert to thwart any attack by rebel soldiers trying to overthrow President Corason Aquino, Armed Forces Chief General Renato De Villa announced today.

He said the alert was a precaution against any attempts by mutineers to disrupt next Sunday's gathering of political and military leaders at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) and the visit yesterday of US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney.

The red alert—the military's highest state of combat readiness—took effect on Tuesday, De Villa told reporters.

A Manila newspaper recently reported that the rebels who nearly toppled Aquino in last December's coup attempt would launch a revolt on Valentine's Day.

"We don't want any untoward incident to happen," De Villa said. "There are no specific threats... we just wanted to assure ourselves that the PMA production activity is carried out without any untoward incidents from any threat group."

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Repatriation demand

Bihari Muslims, stranded in Bangladesh for 18 years, stage a noisy protest in Dhaka demanding repatriation to Pakistan.



No need for this

Supporters of Kashmir Liberation Front burns a copy of Indian constitution during the relaxation of curfew in Sri Nagar on Feb 13. (Reuter wirephoto)

90 die in Indian Airlines plane crash

(Continued from Page 1)

he had been appointed as test pilot for Indian Airlines. All three female members of the crew survived the crash.

Most survivors escaped through the rear door with the help of two air hostesses, Sadhana Pawar and Sujaya. The survivors were in a dazed condition in a hospital, and some of them said they'd rather not relive the horror. It was a pathetic sight.

Sadhana, who has been commended for bravery, said: "I was happy to have been of some help to the passengers." The other air hostess, Sujaya, has suffered facial injuries and burns. The survivors are being treated at

HAL Hospital, Air Force command Hospital and St. Johns Hospital. Anxious crowds have gathered at the scene of the hospitals, where the survivors are being treated.

Yesterday's crash is said to be the worst in India's aviation history. The Airbus-320 was delivered to Indian Airlines on Dec 24 and had flown a total of 366 hours. It was the 13th in the series of 16 the airline has so far received. Indian Airlines has ordered 31 Airbus 320.

The pre-landing communications sequence of the flight was normal, the pilot asked for clearance for landing four minutes before landing, and permission was granted. The conver-

sation was normal and the pilot had not reported any difficulty. Three of the four children on board survived the crash. There were a total of 139 passengers, seven crew members. Of them, there were four infants, 101 males, 20 females, five children.

Air hostesses Neela Sawant, Sadhana Pawar and Sujaya survived the crash; two others are reported to have been killed. They were identified as Ms Mary Chacko and Mrs Rajalakshmi Swamy.

Indian Airlines has made arrangements for the relatives to fly to Bangalore from India and abroad. Information centres have been opened in

Bombay, Bangalore, Delhi, Ahmedabad and Calcutta.

IA executive R. Prasad, Civil Aviation Sec. A.V. Ganesan, have arrived on the scene.

Khan, commenting on the possibility of cancelling Airbus-320 order, said it was too premature to come to any conclusion.

SURVIVORS

N.S. Kanti, 23, Bombay; Jenuk Patel, 32, Bombay; I.R. Mirza, 39, Surat; V.K. Sarvate, 56, Nagpur; Dr D.P. Pandey, Bangalore 45; Ram Bhajra Ram, 30, Thane; Seidhar, Bangalore; Rakul Malik, Bombay; M.P. Thakkar, Bombay; P. Indresh, Bombay; Rakhi Shastri, coming from London; L. Krishnan, 29, Ban-

galore; K. Manohar Hussain, 32, Bangalore; Neela, Rajkot; John 28, US; Bharat Shah, Ahmedabad; Janna, Bombay; Sujaya, D.P. Hazira, Delhi; K. Desai, Ahmedabad; R.N. Kini, Mehurim; Sadhana Pawar, Bombay; John Macozzi, Chicago; M.J. Bansal; Shahid, 4; H.R. Khurana; Sujaya, (infant); Kamlesh Mehta, Ahmedabad; Dina Patel, Marie Helen Speciaforti; B.R. Dwaraki, 49, Bangalore; Babydya, Bangalore; Mrs Meena Davidos, Bangalore; Bharatvya; Saleh Ahmed, Abu Dhabi; Amaram Chabbaria; Mrs M. Chhabria; Srikant Joshi; Sushmi Hiradia; Y. Yamazaki Grotfueser; Sridharan; Mrs Sridharan; Vilas Sridharan; Haridas Sridharan; F.C. Khanna; Anandmay; Mrs Satra; Henshaad; Srinivas; M.S. Tata; Saroj Sidhu; Mrs Sidhu; Mrs Neela; F.D. Mumbhi and Y.L.P. Ali.

British rates of divorce rising

LONDON, Feb 14, (Reuter): One in four babies in Britain are now born to unmarried parents and the rates of divorce and homelessness are on the rise, according to government figures published.

"People in Britain had more money to spend during the 1980s but a credit boom, partly stanchied by rising interest rates, meant household debt almost doubled between 1981 and 1988, the central statistical office said in its annual survey of British society called "Social Trends."

"Births outside marriage are increasing very quickly and if it goes on at this rate there will be no births inside marriage in a few years' time," the survey's author Tom Griffin told a news conference.

But Britain is still far behind Sweden where the number of babies born outside wedlock has reached 50 per cent. A table of selected international comparisons put Greece at the lowest rate with two per cent.

The survey painted a gloomy picture of the rising number of homeless people in Britain. In 1988 local authorities managed to find accommodation for 135,000 homeless individuals and families — four per cent more than in the previous year — but more than 60,000 could not be housed.

Divorces increased through the 1980s and Britain had the second highest rate in the 12-nation European Economic Community after Denmark.

One of the most striking changes to occur during Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's 10 years in power was the rise in the number of shareholders. The number of adults in Britain who owned shares tripled in less than a decade to 20 per cent, the survey said.

'Driving Miss Daisy' leads

Oscar nominations

BEVERLY HILLS, California, Feb 14, (AP): "Driving Miss Daisy," the bittersweet story of a contrary southern lady and her wise old chauffeur, led the 62nd Academy Award nominations today with nine, followed by the Vietnam film "Born on the Fourth of July" with eight.

"Glory," the epic of black soldiers in the civil war, and "My Left Foot," the story of an Irish cerebral palsy victim played by Daniel Day-Lewis, followed with five nominations apiece. Day-Lewis was nominated for best actor.

Noel Pearson, producer of "My Left Foot," said in London: "It's something I kind of thought would never happen. Now that it has happened, it's amazing, we were just hoping for Daniel."

He said Day-Lewis ran out in the street when he heard the news at his agent Julian Belfrage's office: "He's so thrilled, he's just run out of the building. At the moment, it's madness in here."

"Driving Miss Daisy" earned nominations for best picture, and for acting by Morgan Freeman, Jessica Tandy and Dan Aykroyd, but surprisingly not for its director, Bruce Beresford.

"Born on the Fourth of July" scored for best picture, Tom Cruise's starring performance, and the direction by Oliver Stone, who also shared a screen-writing nomination with Ron Kovic, the disabled veteran-activist whose story the film portrays.

"Everyone worked very hard on this film, not only making it but trying to get it made," Cruise said in a statement from the Daytona, Florida, location of his latest movie.

Kovic, about to board a plane in New York, called his nomination "truly one of the happiest and most triumphant moments of my life."

The Academy voters demonstrated selectivity by nominating for best actor Kenneth Branagh of "Henry V" and Robin Williams of "Dead Poets Society."

Both have been little mentioned in pre-nomination predictions.

Along with Freeman and Cruise, Daniel Day-Lewis of "My Left Foot" also was nominated for best actor.

Isabelle Adjani of "Camille Claudel" was a surprise nominee for best actress. Other nominees: Pauline Collins, "Shirley Valentine"; Jessica Lange, "Music Box"; Michelle Pfeiffer, "The Fabulous Baker Boys"; and Miss Tandy.

In Paris, Miss Lange said "I'm always delighted (to be nominated) because you never know if you will be; nothing's ever certain. The farther along you get, the more difficult it becomes. In the beginning, it all seems so new,

you know." Belying the legend that films released late in the year are favoured in the Oscars, the voters nominated "Field of Dreams," released April 21, and "Dead Poets Society," released June 2, for best picture of 1989.

Other nominees for best picture: "Born on the Fourth of July," "Driving Miss Daisy" and "My Left Foot."

Among the curiosities in today's nominations: No major honours for the year's top box-office money maker, "Batman," which earned \$251.2 million in 1989. There were no nominations at all for the critically acclaimed "Drugstore Cowboy."

"My Left Foot" director Jim Sheridan and "Henry V" director were nominated for their directorial debuts, a feat that has led to only four Oscars. Branagh, Freeman and Miss Collins were nominated for roles they created on the stage; 19 Oscars have been won by actors repeating theatre roles.

Landau and Miss Pfeiffer are the only repeat nominees from last year.

Marlon Brando, who won an Oscar for "On the Waterfront" and rejected one for "The Godfather," was nominated for supporting actor for his brief role as a liberal South African lawyer in "A Dry White Season."

Others named for supporting actor: Danny Aiello, "Do the Right Thing"; Aykroyd, "Driving Miss Daisy"; Martin Landau, "Crimes and Misdemeanours"; Denzel Washington, "Glory."

For supporting actress: Brenda Fricker, "My Left Foot"; Anjelica Huston, "Enemies, A Love Story"; Lena Olin, "Enemies, A Love Story"; Julia Roberts, "Steel Dawn"; Diane West, "Paranoid."

For best direction: along with Branagh, Sheridan and Stone, Woody Allen, "Crimes and Misdemeanours"; Peter Weir, "Dead Poets Society"; and Jim Sheridan, "My Left Foot."

Best foreign language film: "Cinema Paradiso," Italy; "Jesus of Montreal," Canada; "Santiago, the story of his new life," Puerto Rico; "Waltzing Regitze," Denmark.

Original screenplay: Allen, "Crimes and Misdemeanours"; Tom Schulman, "Dead Poets Society"; Spike Lee, "Do the Right Thing"; Steven Soderbergh, "Sex Lies and Videotape"; Nora Ephron, "When Harry Met Sally..."

Filmmaker Michael Moore had as much trouble meeting Oscar as he did catching General Motors president Roger Smith in his documentary "Roger and Me." The film failed to win a nomination in the documentary feature category.

Hostages safe, abductors held

PRINCE GEORGE, British Columbia, Feb 14, (AP): Three men took 11 students on a school bus hostage yesterday, but were arrested after releasing all but one of the youngsters and leading authorities on a brief chase, police said.

The hostages were unharmed, officials said.

The Royal Canadian mounted police supplied the three with a getaway car, and allowed them to take one of the students with them, police said.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW YORK: The high cost of love is under attack by the state attorney general, who is trying to run out of business a matchmaker who charges up to \$20,000.

A lawsuit being filed contends, among other things, that the matchmaker has given some clients dates with ex-convicts or people "not quite divorced," attorney general Robert Abrams said.

Haim Amram, 40, who runs three dating services in Manhattan and two in Great Neck, on Long Island, was accused in the lawsuit of overcharging customers and committing other fraudulent and illegal business practices.

His services operate as Haim VIP Personal Introduction Service of NY Inc., Personal Qualities Inc., and Haim VIP Club of New York Inc. in Manhattan; and Haim VIP Club-Long Island Inc., and Personal Qualities-Long Island Inc.

"It can be proved, I'm going to win this case," vowed Ms Amram, who used the occasion to plug her coming book, "Have I got a match for you?" while fielding reporters' calls at her Madison Avenue office. (AP)

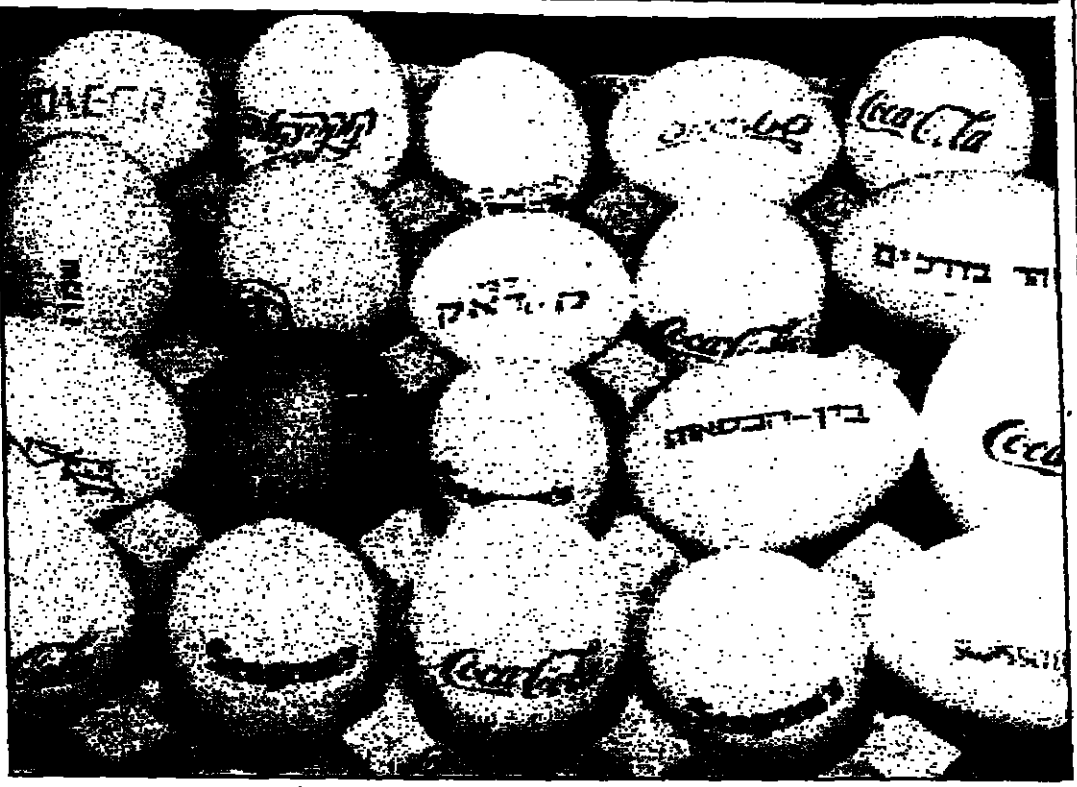
Ms Amram said Abrams is badgering her because she sued him Nov 28, challenging a \$250 limit of fees for dating services. A judge is to be appointed March 7 for that lawsuit.

"I never break the law," she said. "If the law is no good, then I'm not breaking the law."

Abrams said his office received about 50 complaints about exorbitant fees and Ms Amram's alleged failure to live up to the terms of the contract — such as adequate screening, a specified number of referrals per month and refunds to dissatisfied customers.

Abrams said one woman complained to the service that her date had a criminal record. She was offered apologies and told a mistake had been made.

Ms Amram said it's not true her service gets dates for ex-offenders.



Egging on with eggs

A new advertising idea hatched in Israel delivers its message straight to the breakfast table — on eggs. The egg ads, the first world-wide, were introduced two weeks ago after the Israeli company Golden Eggs developed the technology to imprint the ads as

the eggs are being sorted. Golden Eggs president Rafi Orel said Tuesday he thinks the egg messages will appeal to people jaded by other ads. "You can't ignore it when you open the refrigerator," Orel said in a telephone interview.

"I check every one. We have an investigation company, a psychologist, a professional staff doing their jobs very, very carefully."

One woman said she was set up with a free-lance computer programmer "who was not quite divorced at the time he went out."

Another also encountered a married man "who was 100 pounds (45 kilos) overweight, with dyed bright orange hair."

One said her date revealed on the first date that he had a venereal disease. Another woman met a man who "tried to physically assault me." (Reuters)

TOKYO: Legendary British rock group The Rolling Stones finally played live before an adoring Tokyo crowd on Wednesday night, 17 years after they were originally due to tour Japan.

"Happy Valentine's Day," shouted lead singer Mick Jagger, clad in black skin-tight studded pants. "We've waited a very long time to come to Japan."

The band had been due here in 1973 but were forced to cancel their tour at the last minute when Japanese authorities denied Jagger a visa because of his arrest for drug possession.

"I had tickets to the show in 1973," said 33-year-old office worker Jumi Nagasaki. "I finally feel like I've had my retribution."

"I've loved them for so long," beamed Yuka Kono, 22, "they're a bit older now but they're still great."

The Stones are due to play 10 sell-out concerts at the Tokyo Dome, home of Japan's most famous baseball club.

They drew fans ranging from teenagers to grandmothers to their opening night, some of whom paid as much as 60,000 yen (\$414) for their tickets. (Reuters)

None but Sedan is road worthy

WASHINGTON, Feb 14, (AP): Six of seven 1990-model autos so far tested appear unlikely to protect drivers from head injuries in a 35-mph (56-km/h) crash, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said yesterday.

Only the Acura Integra four-door Sedan appears able to protect from driver head injuries, the agency said. The Toyota 4-runner four-door truck ranked worst among models tested.

Conducted Besides the Acura and Toyota models, tests have been conducted on the Chevrolet Lumina, the Mazda Miata, the Nissan Stanza, the Lexus ES250 and the Mitsubishi Eclipse.

Some carmakers have criticized the government's testing, which uses instrument-equipped dummies. The manufacturers contend the tests do not accurately reflect highway crash conditions.

The safety agency continues testing throughout the year until all models are covered.

Tests Dummies in the tests are secured by seat belts and, if available, air bags. Instruments are designed to measure potential head, chest and upper leg injuries to an average-sized adult male.

Each car is given a head-injury rating. Scores below 750 indicate that head injury is unlikely, between 750 and 1,250 that it is possible and above 1,250 that it is likely.

Scores Here are the models tested so far and their head injury scores.

Toyota 4-runner four-door, 1,306; Chevrolet Lumina four-door, 1,206; Nissan Stanza four-door, 1,105; Lexus ES250 four-door, 992; Mazda Miata two-door convertible, 920; Mitsubishi Eclipse two-door hatchback, 772; Acura Integra four-door, 585.

5-hour siege for the wrong man

LONDON, Feb 14, (Reuters): Jogger Phil Jones returned home from a run in Reading, west of London, unaware that the dash to his front door had convinced police he was a gunman fleeing from a nearby robbery.

Marksmen backed up by a spotter helicopter surrounded the apartment, waiting for five hours for Jones, a 28-year-old fashion photographer, to come out. Inside, he watched television and even set up a camera to capture the activity in the street.

The police tried to phone him but got only as far as

his answering-machine. They left him a message to come out with his hands up.

Eventually an armed six-man squad with two Alsatian dogs burst into the apartment, seized Jones and marched him off.

Last night, after Jones was released, a police spokesman said: "Mar Jones is a law-abiding resident, not the armed gunman. It is unfortunate that he fitted the description of the robber. In a robbery like this we cannot take any chances."

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MADE IN SONY
WARRANTY CHALLENGE

America ships off Colombia

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, (UPI): A navy amphibious assault ship with a contingent of fully armed marines and a destroyer were stationed off Colombia yesterday in a "prudent, logistical manoeuvre" for President Bush's drug-summit meeting, the Pentagon announced.

The assault ship USS Nassau left the United States Feb. 5, joined up with the escort destroyer USS Sampson and arrived off the coast of Colombia on Monday.

The Nassau normally carries 1,900 fully armed marines, the navy said. But the navy and US officials refused to say exactly how many marines were aboard for the Colombian trip.

The Bush administration also pointedly refrained from declaring the operation part of the security precautions for the president's one-day visit Thursday to Cartagena, Colombia.

"We have the USS Nassau located off a Colombia to provide logistical support to the US part at the Cartagena summit," Pentagon spokesman Bob Hall said. "Part of its normal complement are Marine corps troops and their equipment."

"It's a prudent, logistical manoeuvre that we're undertaking in conjunction with the government of Colombia, which is providing a Colombian escort ship," Hall said. "All the ships will be in international waters."

A defence official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the Nassau was expected to be used as a "sort of hotel" for the secret service and other security forces.

In Bogotá, Colombian officials also said the Nassau would supply helicopters to fly Bush and his entourage from the Barranquilla airport to the summit site in Cartagena.

A Pentagon official said that while the Nassau and Sampson are there mainly for the types of logistical purposes, "if anything happens, they would be prepared."

Bush will meet in Cartagena with the leaders of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia to discuss forming a common anti-drug strategy.

His trip is being watched closely because of the cocaine drug cartels' war of bombings and assassinations against Colombia's government in retaliation for its crackdown on the drug trade.

The 830-foot (252-m) Nassau, the length of nearly three football fields, normally carries 1,900 armed marines, nine CH-53 sea stallion troop-carrying helicopters, 12 CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters and 10 AV-8B Harrier jump jets.

The ship is designed to support assault from the sea against defended positions ashore, using landing craft and helicopters to move a marine expeditionary force to the point of attack.

Bush told reporters last week he would not do anything "stupid" or "macho" to endanger his life on the one-day trip, and that he did not fear the threat of attack from the cocaine drug cartels during the summit meeting.

Concern for Bush's safety increased following news reports that members of the drug cartels were attempting to obtain shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles that could be used to try to shoot down air force one.

The White House brushed off the reports, saying the president's plane has an array of sophisticated equipment to avoid attack. In addition, the Colombian government is believed to be erecting an unprecedented wall of security around the summit meeting site.

At the White House yesterday, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft refused to discuss precautions being taken for Bush's safety but said, "we are all comfortable about the president's security."

"Look, of course, it is an unusual situation because there are in Colombia these guerrilla bands, terrorists bands, with access to funds to purchase on the open market any kinds of arms," Scowcroft told reporters.

"So naturally there are unusual circumstances," he said. "But we think they are adequately taken care of."

Meanwhile in Bogotá, authorities seized 5 tons of drug cartel dynamite and found almost \$5 million in cash buried in trash cans at a ranch owned by slain drug chieftain Jose Rodriguez Gacha, police said yesterday.

Police found the explosives, apparently imported from Ecuador and Peru, during searches Monday of three Medellín cartel ranches in southern Antioquia state.



Gunboats patrol

Gunboats patrol the waters off the coast of Cartagena Feb. 13 in front of the Colombian government guest house where the drug summit will take place Feb. 15. The president of the US, Colombia, Bolivia and Peru will take part in the meeting. (Reuters wirephoto)

Anti-US protests on eve of drug summit

Cartel hands over three biggest cocaine labs

CARTAGENA, Colombia, Feb. 14, (Agencies): Leftist rebels abducted two US citizens and anti-American protests erupted here and in Bogotá yesterday as Colombia prepared to host tomorrow's drug summit between US President George Bush and Andean leaders.

RCN national radio said the rebels released one of the Americans unharmed, a US engineer identified as John Arthur Dorely, late Tuesday, and promised to free the other, a school teacher, within hours.

Both kidnapped Americans were long-time residents of the Medellín drug capital where they were seized, a US embassy spokeswoman said.

Meanwhile, authorities made final security preparations day on the eve of a drug summit. Some of the heaviest security in Colombia's history was planned during the meeting in Cartagena.

A US helicopter carrier sailed off Colombia's coast, and Colombian authorities said about 5,000 security agents would be assigned to protect the heads of state. US warplanes may be used to escort the presidential jet Air Force One and Bush's helicopter.

"It's an unusual situation, because there are in Colombia these guerrilla bands, terrorist bands, with access to funds to purchase ... any

Zamora seeks US aid

Alternative to coca

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Feb. 14, (AP): Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora said yesterday, on the eve of his trip to the drug summit in Colombia, that alternative development is the key to the eradication of coca leaf and that consuming nations must do their part to combat drugs.

President Alan García of Peru said he is planning to ask the United States for economic aid to enable coca-producing farmers to switch to other crops.

García, Paz Zamora and Virgilio Barco of Colombia are to meet US President George Bush in Cartagena, Colombia, today to discuss the international drug-trafficking problem.

García said yesterday he will ask for aid so Peruvian peasants can switch from growing coca — the raw material for cocaine — to coffee or other crops.

"Coca reduction in exchange for development — that is our promise," Paz Zamora told reporters yesterday. "We are proposing investments in the Bolivian economy. It is not just a question of substituting one hectare of coca for oranges or coffee but the development of the country because coca is an integral part of the economy."

He said that the development process means transforming Bolivia economically so that it will no longer depend on coca farming and cocaine production for a large share of its export earnings.

The Bolivian government says that cocaine brings in \$500 to \$600 million a year. The US government says the figure is closer to \$150 to \$280 million. The country's legal export earnings for 1989 were \$600 million.

Paz Zamora praised Bush "because he is showing, unlike any other US president, that the cocaine problem is a global one."

Bolivia's president called for the establishment of an emergency fund to handle the problem of unemployment and poverty that would be created as coca plants are eradicated.

He said, however, that he was not going to Cartagena to ask for specific amounts of US aid but to present Bolivia's viewpoint on the matter of alternative development and cocaine interdiction.

"We want to present our point of view on the problems and what our responsibility is before the international community."

"We do not want subsidies for alternative products since that is a short-term solution," Paz Zamora said.



Paz Zamora holding a cane and bag with coca leaves given to him by the Los Yungas peasants speaks to coca producers. (Reuters wirephoto)

native development and cocaine interdiction. "We want to present our point of view on the problems and what our responsibility is before the international community."

"We do not want subsidies for alternative products since that is a short-term solution," Paz Zamora said.

Junkie decline

American students

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, (Reuters): American high school seniors and college students were only half as likely to use illicit drugs regularly in 1989 as were their counterparts a decade ago, according to a university survey unveiled at the White House yesterday.

While just over half of the respondents admitted to having tried illegal drugs at least once in their lives, the annual University of Michigan survey showed that declining trends in experimentation and regular use of cocaine, marijuana, amphetamines and tranquilisers continued in 1989.

"The movement away from drug use runs broad and deep among high school seniors," said William Bennett, the White House anti-narcotics chief.

The survey, issued as President George Bush prepared for Thursday's four-nation drug summit in Colombia, showed that 19.7 per cent of the students had used an illicit drug within the previous month, compared with 38.9 per cent in 1979.

At the same time, 30.9 per cent said they tried illegal drugs at some point in their lives, down from 53.9 per cent in 1988 and a high of 65.1 per cent in 1979.

But use of "crack," the highly addictive, smokeable form of cocaine that has been particularly prevalent in inner cities showed virtually no decline in use over the past year, with 4.7 per cent of the respondents saying they have tried it.

Use of marijuana, the most popular illegal drug among young people, continued a long-term decline, with 43.7 per cent of the respondents saying they had smoked it at least once and 16.7 per cent admitting to being regular users. The number of regular marijuana smokers peaked at 37.1 per cent in 1978, the survey said.

Regular use of cocaine other than "crack" fell sharply in 1989, with only 8.5 per cent of the respondents admitting to having used it within the previous month, compared with 12.1 per cent in 1988.

Witness in-camera

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, (AP): Ronald Reagan's lawyers asked a judge yesterday to bar reporters and the public from the courtroom when the former president gives videotaped testimony Friday in the Iran-Contra case of his former national security adviser, John Poindexter.

Iran-Contra prosecutors and the Justice Department joined Reagan's lawyers in saying news organisations have no constitutional right to attend the pre-trial deposition.

"Even if there were a constitutional interest in the press attendance at the deposition ... that interest is outweighed by the significant risk of disclosure of confidential information," Reagan's lawyers said in a filing in US district court.

The Justice Department said in a court brief that a closed deposition was the only way to prevent inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information.

"There is no other means to prevent the disclosure of national security matters unless they are edited out before the videotaped deposition is made public," the department said.

kind of arms, and so naturally there are unusual circumstances," said US National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said.

As tension mounted ahead of the summit, US ambassador Thomas McNamara said Bush would face only a slight risk when he flies into Cartagena to meet with his counterparts from Colombia, Peru and Bolivia — the world's main cocaine-producing countries.

"There is always a risk when you put four presidents together, but that risk is not excessive," he told a Cartagena news conference yesterday.

Colombia's drug barons have handed over what they described as the country's three biggest and most modern cocaine laboratories as a gesture of goodwill in the drug war against the government, the private radio Cadena Nacional said today.

The radio said drug-traffickers sought by US courts led a group of journalists to a northern jungle region yesterday to hand over the three laboratories.

"As a further contribution to our promise to fight for peace to strengthen democracy, we have decided to hand over the three biggest and most modern cocaine processing laboratories that currently exist in the country," said a statement from the Extrajudicial, a group of major drug-traffickers, sent to local media today.

Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londoño Parades added that the US president would be safer here than on New York City's notoriously sordid 42nd street after dark.

In Bogotá, meanwhile, witnesses said riot police clashed with scores of students staging an anti-US protest at Bogotá's national university, the country's largest.

The witnesses said police used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators, some of whom were armed with molotov cocktails.

In Cartagena, up to 700 trade unionists marched through the city centre chanting anti-American slogans, some of them opposing Bush's imminent visit here.

Conga drums and a saxophone added a colourful flavour to the stridently anti-American protest.

"Go home, Yankee invaders" and "out of Colombia, Gringo animal Bush" were among the chants shouted by the protesters.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14, (AP): Men who use cocaine may be harming their fertility, say researchers who suggest that may help explain why some couples have trouble conceiving a child.

In a study of men from couples consulting a fertility clinic, cocaine use was associated with low sperm counts and other problems that can reduce a man's fertility, researchers said.

Analysis suggested the apparent effect of cocaine may disappear after the drug use stops, study co-author Michael Bracken, professor of epidemiology, obstetrics and gynaecology at Yale University, said yesterday.

But a specialist in male infertility cautioned that the study does not show that cocaine use caused infertility in the men. "This is provocative but by no means evidence of cause and effect," said Richard Scherins of Genetics and IVF Institute of Fairfax, Virginia.

The study included 40 men with low sperm counts, 77 who had sperm with low motility, which essentially means too few sperm were swimming correctly, and 75 who had high concentrations of abnormally shaped sperm. Each of these problems can contribute to infertility.

Cocaine use by these 192 men was compared to that of 284 other male partners of couples who consulted the clinic but did not have these problems.

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

White House scuttles firing: The head of the US Information Agency tried to fire the director of the Voice of America last week, but the White House said VOA's Richard Carlson still enjoyed President George Bush's confidence, officials said Tuesday in Washington.

One government source close to the situation, speaking on condition of anonymity, described a confrontation between USIA director Bruce Gelb and Carlson over a decision last month to eliminate six of VOA's 43 language services in an effort to save \$3 million (AP).

Plane crashes, 2 dead: A business airplane crashed in a wooded field Tuesday night, killing the two people aboard and narrowly missing several homes, officials said in Burlington, North Carolina. The 20-seat Beech King Air twin-engine turboprop went down about a mile (kilometre) from Interstate 85 around 6:30 pm (2330 GMT), said police Sgt. Vickie Saunders.

The Holt Manufacturing Co. plane was en route from New York to Burlington municipal airport when it crashed, officials said. An earlier report had said the craft was a commuter plane. (AP)

Solar system family album: The US Voyager 1 spacecraft has turned itself into the solar system's family photographer, taking group snapshots of the earth and neighbouring planets.

Voyager project scientist Edward Stone said in Pasadena, California, that the spacecraft's onboard computer had been programmed to turn on its cameras at 0100 GMT on Wednesday.

A spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) said the photo-session would produce "an unprecedented family portrait" of most of the planets of this solar system.

Voyager 1, which completed its mission to explore the outer planets 10 years ago, was due to take 64 photographs of the solar system over a four-hour period. (Reuters)

Scientists looking for stardust: Scientists said on Tuesday they are scouring a satellite that orbited earth for six years, looking for stardust that will tell them how the solar system was formed.

The long duration exposure facility (LDEF) satellite, brought down from orbit January 20 in a space shuttle, is covered with some 10,000 holes made by tiny particles of cosmic dust that hit it during its journey, according to researchers who have been studying the satellite in a sterilised building at the Kennedy Space Centre since last week.

"We're looking for stardust. That sounds romantic, but it's true," said Dr Robert Walker, a research scientist with Washington University in St Louis, Missouri, told reporters. (Reuters)

Warmer US winters: The absence of volcanic eruptions spewing insulating ash into the atmosphere from the earth's middle latitudes has brought warm winters back to the United States, a long-range weather forecaster said on Tuesday in Chicago.

Paul Hander, head of Atlas Forecasts of Urbana, Illinois, said the frequent volcanic activity seen from about 1960 to 1985 pushed ash into the upper atmosphere, blocking enough sunlight to keep January temperatures far below average.

The record cold seen at the peak of the cycle in the late 1970s caused a spate of predictions by climatologists that a new ice age was coming. (Reuters)

Aspen rejects fur ban: America's greatest ski resort voted on Tuesday against a ban on the sale of wild-animal furs.

If the vote had gone the other way, Aspen, Colorado, would have become the first US community to introduce such a ban.

The sale of fur clothing has become a hot issue in the United States, with some opponents splashing paint on people wearing fur.

Cut aid appeal: A cutoff in US aid to President Alfredo Cristiani's rightist government would create the conditions for a rapid negotiated settlement of El Salvador's 10-year-old civil war, a top guerrilla commander contends.

"We think there is now a great debate in the United States about military aid," Fernan Cienfuegos, a member of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front's five-man high command, said yesterday.

Congress must soon decide whether to renew US military aid to El Salvador. The United States provided \$378 million in aid to El Salvador last year.

Confrontation looms ahead

Condemn Panama invasion, UN urged

GENEVA, Feb. 14, (AP): Cuba, Nicaragua and Vietnam yesterday urged the UN human rights commission to condemn US armed intervention in Panama and demand immediate withdrawal of US troops.

The move sets the scene for confrontation at the annual session of the 43-nation body.

A draft resolution signed by the three countries and submitted to the commission described US action as "a flagrant violation of international law and of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Panama."

A US official who spoke on condition of anonymity criticised the draft as "totally inappropriate" and said Washington's decision to oust former leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega was not a matter for the Human Rights Commission.

Noriega is in custody in the United States, where he faces drug-trafficking charges.

The draft text will be discussed by the commission at its current six-week session, which ends March 9.

A competing draft resolution submitted by Panama called on the UN body to condemn "any totalitarian system of government in considering that these governments violate the human rights of their people."

The draft urged the "unconditional departure" of Soviet military advisers from Cuba, the withdrawal of Cuban military personnel from Angola and Nicaragua, and the halting of Nicaraguan aid to leftist rebels in El Salvador.

It also called on Washington not to restore aid to rightist anti-government rebels in Nicaragua and urged the withdrawal of US troops who took part in the intervention in Panama last December to install the new government of Guillermo Endara.

Cocaine use by men may harm fertility: researchers

NEW YORK, Feb. 14, (AP): Men who use cocaine may be harming their fertility, say researchers who suggest that may help explain why some couples have trouble conceiving a child.

In a study of men from couples consulting a fertility clinic, cocaine use was associated with low sperm counts and other problems that can reduce a man's fertility, researchers said.

Analysis suggested the apparent effect of cocaine may disappear after the drug use stops, study co-author Michael Bracken, professor of epidemiology, obstetrics and gynaecology at Yale University, said yesterday.

But a specialist in male infertility cautioned that the study does not show that cocaine use caused infertility in the men. "This is provocative but by no means evidence of cause and effect," said Richard Scherins of Genetics and IVF Institute of Fairfax, Virginia.



Woman of The Year

Actress Glen Close leaps to her feet to wave to the crowd as she was paraded through Harvard Square, Mass., surrounded by male members of Harvard's Hasty Pudding Theatricals dressed in drag. Close was honoured as Hasty Pudding's 1990 Woman of The Year. (Reuters wirephoto)



Here It Is

Third mate Gregory Cousins shows where the bridge is located on the Exxon Valdez at the trial of former Valdez captain Joseph Hazelwood in Anchorage, Alaska, yesterday. Cousins was third mate as the tanker ran aground on Bligh reef in Prince William Sound in March last year. (Reuters wirephoto)

including \$80 million in military assistance. Renewing aid would "complicate the situation and be a step backwards," Cienfuegos said.

Cienfuegos said US pressure on Cristiani to halt human rights abuses allegedly carried out by the armed forces was one reason the rebels believed peace talks were possible in the near future. (AP)

Ortega fears: President Daniel Ortega said that about 2,000 Contras have infiltrated Nicaragua in an "attempt to block the electoral process" which culminates with nationwide polling Feb. 25.

Ortega said the Contra plan to "contest elections" results, smokes North American opinion "politically" and indicates a Sandinista victory.

Two surveys conducted in January, by the US-based pollsters Greenberg Lake and Bendixen Schroth, gave Ortega's Sandinista Front a strong lead over his major rival, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro of the United National Opposition, known as UNO.

Ortega said he met with Roman Catholic Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo to express concerns "about plans the Contras have for trying to affect the electoral process."

"I expressed to the cardinal my worry about the verbal and other kinds of violence and other kinds of recent days," Ortega said.

Violence in Peru: Scattered incidents of armed battles and assassinations involving leftist guerrillas in the past three days have left 25 people dead in the past three days in Peru, authorities said.

The Interior Ministry announced the capture of four Shining Path rebels who, according to authorities, for five years produced counterfeit tickets to soccer matches and bullfights.

Fair poll terms set for canal

TOKYO, Feb. 14, (UPI): The Japanese government has so far refused Nicaragua's request to assist in the construction of a second canal across Central America, but that may change if the Nicaraguan elections Feb. 25 come off smoothly, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Japan said today.

"I think the Japanese government eventually will participate in this project," said Jorge Huerto at a news conference. "When we made the first announcement the reaction was not so positive, but now they are saying they are interested, and if the elections are honest and clean, they can sit and talk with us."

A Japanese Foreign Ministry official later denied Japan has made any promise to discuss the canal project.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said Japan would be willing to discuss financial aid for the reconstruction of Nicaragua.

Nicaraguans go to the polls Feb. 25, to decide between President Daniel Ortega, who has a commanding lead in opinion polls, and National Opposition Union candidate Violeta Chamorro, who is supported by the United States.

AP/Wide World

Bigger byte by Toshiba

TOKYO, Feb 14, (UPI): Toshiba Corp. said today it will market world-wide two new models of notebook-size portable computers with more than 20 times the data storage capacity of their predecessor now on sale.

The Tokyo-based company said the new models, T1200XE and T1000XE, are an advanced type of the "DynaBook" T1000SE which has been marketed by the company last June.

Both models incorporate 20 megabyte hard disk drives, giving them more than 20 times the data storage capacity of the T1000SE, the company said.

T1200XE has a processing speed 2.5 times faster than the T1000SE and its screen has an easy-to-read cold cathode fluorescent tube with adjustable contrast and brightness, the company said. It measures 2.2 inches by 11.0 inches by 2.0 inches and weighs 7.9 pounds (3.6 kg).

T1000XE has 20 times the data storage capacity of the T1000SE while it retains the same compact size, the company said. It measures 12.2 by 10.0 by 1.8 inches and weighs 6.2 pounds (2.8 kg).

Both models have all features to meet the needs for a functional high-end notebook-size personal computer with mass storage, the company said.

Overseas marketing will start in March with suggested prices of \$5,999 for the T1200XE and \$2,699 for the T1000XE, the company said.

IBM makes 16m bit chip

Smaller than a postage stamp in size

NEW YORK, Feb 14, (UPI): International Business Machines Corp. said yesterday it has produced a 16-million-bit computer memory chip, with four times the storage capacity of the most powerful chips used today in the industry.

IBM's new superchip can store the information contained in several books or the equivalent of 1,600 pages of text, on a surface smaller than a postage stamp. Information can be retrieved at the record speed of 1/25th of a second.

The new chip's memory storage ability and the speed parameter both signalled the next

generation of faster, high-performance computer components.

"It will take about two years to see direct applications of the new technology," IBM spokesman Paul Bergevin said. "Applications will be across the board in mainframes, mid-range systems and personal computers."

IBM technicians are introducing the new superchip technology less than a year after the first applications of the revolutionary million-bit chips developed by IBM, currently the most advanced components in the industry world-wide. The computer manufacturer giant invested more than \$5 billion in 1988

alone to develop high-performance chips.

The 16-million-bit Dynamic Random Access Memory or Dram chip was produced at IBM's plant in Essex Junction, Vermont, on a standard semiconductor production line, requiring no alteration to manufacture the component.

The technology is based on the use of Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor or CMOS, with patterns no larger than 1/200th of the thickness of a sheet of paper, IBM said.

IBM will disclose the technical details of the superchip Friday at the International Solid-State Circuit Conference in San Francisco.



Soviet fighter on display

The Soviet Sukhoi, SU-27 fighter plane is viewed by spectators at the Asian Aerospace '90 Exhibition in Singapore Feb 14. Asia's biggest air show opened Wednesday with millions of dollars of the latest military and civilian flying machines on display. (Reuters wirephoto).

Pan Am bomb rigged in Bonn

FRANKFURT, West Germany, Feb 14, (AP): A US presidential panel yesterday reiterated suspicions that the bomb that blew up Pan Am flight 103 originated in West Germany, but said security has improved at Frankfurt airport since the attack.

The Commission on Aviation Security and Terrorism was created by US President George Bush last August as a direct result of the Dec 21, 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The seven-member panel is examining options for improving airport security to prevent a similar attack. The bombing killed all 259 people aboard the Jumbo jet and 11 on the ground.

Commission members spoke to reporters at Frankfurt airport, where they had looked into security measures.

US representative James Oberstar said that in an official visit to Frankfurt airport last June, he noticed there were still security deficiencies despite the flight 103 bombing. The ill-fated flight originated in Frankfurt.

"My impression then was security was defensive, too decentralised, there were too many opportunities for intervention (terrorism)," he said.

But since then, better security measures have been put into place at Frankfurt airport, said Oberstar.

"There's closer co-ordination among the levels of government. There seems to be better baggage control, there seems to be better baggage-passenger matching, and their technology has improved."

There have been allegations that lax security allowed the bomb to be placed on board flight 103 at Frankfurt airport, but West German investigators have insisted there is no proof the bomb originated here.

But the head of the presidential commission, former US Labour Secretary Ann McLoughlin, insisted that theory remains a strong possibility.

She said that "as one looks at the variety of theories, that one certainly has merit. But it would not be up to me to suggest that's a final decision."

None of the commission members, however, said they had any final proof the bomb originated in Frankfurt.

UK group offers compromise

Die he must: Iran

NICOSIA, Feb 14, (Agencies): An Iranian radical leader, speaking on the first anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeini's order to kill British author Salman Rushdie, stressed today that it will be carried out.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Parliament Speaker Mahdi Karrubi as saying "however much Salman Rushdie may be kept under guard, eventually a Muslim will carry out the edict."

An Iranian opposition group, the Mujahedeen Khalq said Karrubi's remarks were not more than an attempt to divert attention from an "increasing power struggle" in Iran.

Karrubi spoke in an address to the 270-member Parliament on the anniversary of Khomeini's Feb 14 ruling that the Indian-born British writer should be killed for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

"Britain and other supporters of Salman Rushdie must know that all their tricks will come to naught and no matter how much protection is given to Rushdie, a Muslim will eventually implement this edict," Tehran Radio quoted him as telling Parliament.

Rushdie, 42, has spent the past year in hiding under tight security. He broke an almost year-long silence on the book earlier this month when he defended his novel in a 7,000-word essay published in a British newspaper.

In later interviews with the British Independent newspaper and Newsweek magazine Rushdie said his book was not meant to hurt Muslims, but that he stood by what he had written. He added that he was pressing for a paperback edition of the book to be published.

Karrubi's warning was the second in less than a week by a senior Iranian cleric.

Last Friday Khomeini's successor as spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who is considered more moderate, reaffirmed that Rushdie should die. The Iranians insist that although Khomeini died June 3, his edict is still binding.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Karrubi as today that Khomeini's fatwa, or religious ruling, had led to "a wave of pride and happiness in the hearts of world Muslims, and throughout this year the protests and confrontations by Muslims everywhere have continued."

He said that "in England, which was the source of this insult, there have been numerous protests."

Karrubi criticised the British government and the West for protesting the call for Rushdie's death.

He said that "unfortunately, the British government and the Western world have hurt the feel-



Rushdie: adamant

ings of more than a billion Muslims world-wide by supporting this apostate individual."

Karrubi praised protests in Tokyo by Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi Muslims earlier this week against plans to publish a Japanese version of the book, the radio said.

Rushdie's offer of dialogue with Muslims likely will not lift the \$1 million bounty on his head, UK's Islamic leaders said.

Rushdie has appealed Muslims to show tolerance in recent interviews, an essay and a speech delivered from his hideout.

However, his plea appears unlikely to bring him relief from living under guard by 10 armed police officers.

Interviews with several Muslim leaders indicated little chance of a cohesive agreement to ensure a life without protection for Rushdie.

"He should be extradited to a Muslim country and tried there. If he goes before Islamic law, then he should be punished," said Mohammad Ghayaf, deputy director of London's Muslim Institute. "According to

Islamic law, the punishment is death. The whole community here feels this."

"There is no way back whatsoever. Not even if he (Rushdie) repents or whether or not our relations with Britain improve," said Ayatollah Mohieddin Anvari, a senior member of influential Tehran militant clergy association.

But a British Muslim group has proposed a compromise to end the controversy over a renewed death threat from Iran against Rushdie.

The proposal from the Islamic Society for Religious Tolerance suggested Rushdie agree to adding a "health warning" to his novel.

A statement from the Islamic Society for Religious Tolerance said most Muslims in Britain were appalled by Rushdie's book but did not back Khomeini's death threat or its renewal by Iranian President.

"The book should carry a health warning stating that it is totally fictitious and that there is no reliable historical basis to it," said Dr Hesham Essawy, a spokesman for the society.

Crazy Eddie, turns himself in to face contempt charges

NEWARK, New Jersey, Feb 14, (AP): Eddie Antar, the Crazy Eddie Inc. founder who has been hounded by US marshals since Friday, surrendered yesterday to face contempt charges for not answering demands he return \$52 million to the United States, authorities said.

The contempt charge was then stayed, and Antar was released, officials said.

The US securities and exchange commission claims the money may have been gained through insider trading and won an order that the money be transferred from Israeli bank accounts to a court-

appointed trustee.

US district Judge Nicholas H. Politan ordered Antar to repatriate the money by Feb 7, but Antar refused through his attorney, citing his fifth amendment right against self-incrimination.

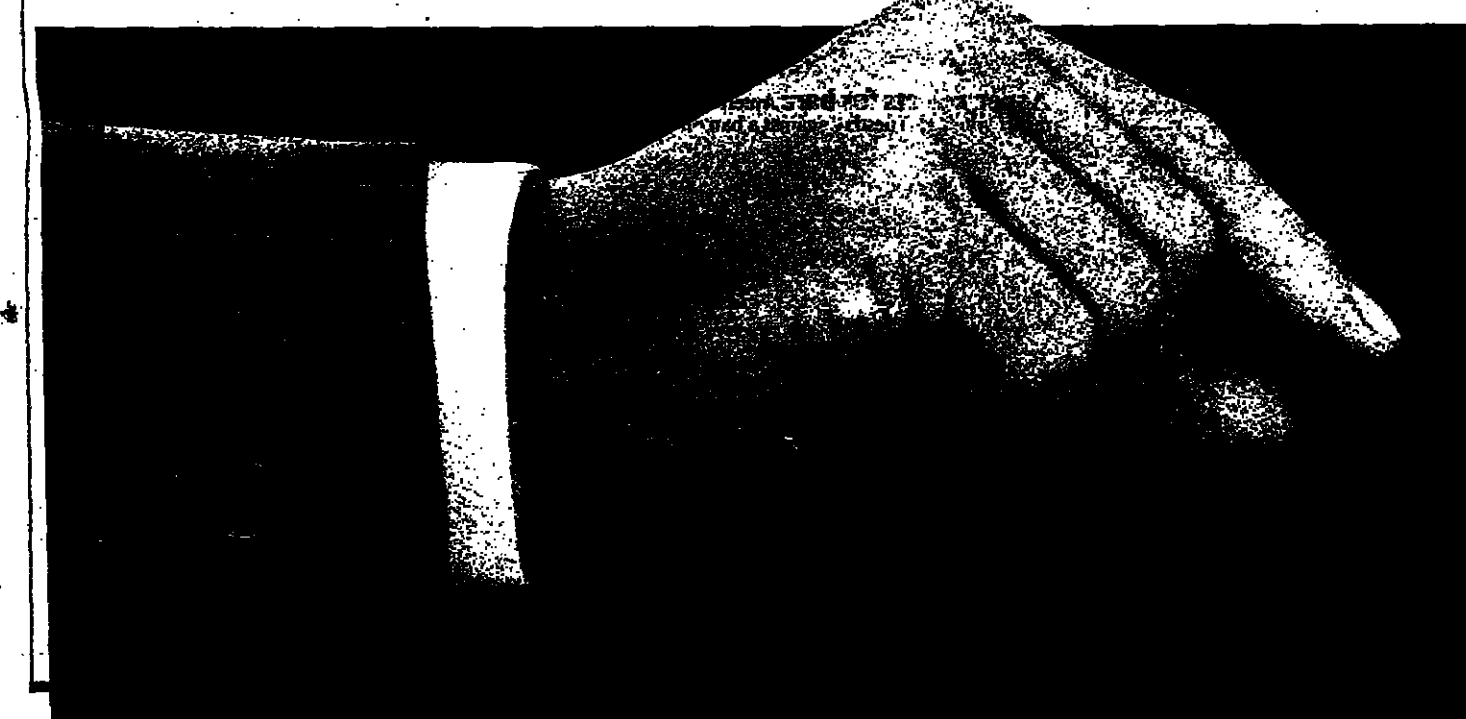
Politan said from the bench Feb 7 that Antar would have to appear in person if he was going to use the fifth amendment, and he gave him until Thursday to appear in court.

On Thursday, Antar's attorney said they needed an extension. Politan then ordered Antar to appear in court on Friday, but Antar again stayed away

and the judge told marshals to "spare no expense" to capture Antar on contempt charges.

US district judge Alfred Lechner Jr. yesterday stayed the contempt charge until Feb 27, when Politan will be back from vacation, and Antar was released, said US marshal Arthur Borinsky.

Antar and other top officials of the Crazy Eddie discount electronics chain were accused in an SEC lawsuit of insider trading. The agency said Antar directed a "massive financial fraud" to falsify the company's income, and reaped illegal profits through.



Captain, first officer dispute call

Who's got the steering wheel?

NEW YORK, Feb 14, (AP): The captain and the first officer piloting a commercial jetliner each thought the other was steering the plane seconds before it skidded off a runway into the East River, killing two people, according to their testimony yesterday.

The transcript from the last moments of US air flight 5050 on Sept 20 shows Capt. Michael Martin saying, "... got the steering."

Martin testified before the National Transportation Safety Board that he had told his first officer, "you've got the steering."

But the first officer, Constantine Kleissas, testified he had heard Martin say, "I've got the steering."

The jet had been drifting to the

FAA orders changes in Boeing 737s

WASHINGTON, Feb 14, (AP): The Federal Aviation Administration yesterday tentatively ordered changes in the control panels of Boeing 737s to prevent a rudder control problem that is one focus of an accident hearing underway in New York.

The changes would make it less likely that pilots or cockpit visitors might accidentally move a rudder trim control knob that could reduce the pilot's ability to control the plane or force an aborted takeoff, the FAA said.

The work would be relatively simple and cost about \$820 per plane, the FAA said in issuing a proposed airworthiness directive. The directive would become final after a 60-day period for comment.

The order came as the National Transportation Safety Board opened a four-day hearing in New York City into

the Sept 20 crash of US Air Flight 5050 that killed two people. The plane skidded off the end of the La Guardia airport runway into the East River and broke into several pieces in an aborted takeoff, and investigators are examining a possible rudder control problem.

The FAA order would cover all 737-300 and 737-400 models, affecting 641 airplanes world-wide. Although FAA orders do not directly apply to planes flown by foreign airlines, they usually comply.

The alteration, designed by Boeing, would replace a rudder trim knob located at the rear of a console between the two pilots and install a protective guardrail behind the knob to prevent it from being inadvertently knocked out of alignment. The new knob would be round and fluted instead of wedge-shaped.

right before the misunderstanding — apparently because of a problem with the rudder — and it continued to do so after the miscommunication, when apparently no one was steering the plane for several seconds.

Martin then grabbed the controls and aborted the takeoff on the rain-slickened La Guardia airport runway, according to the testimony.

In addition to the two fatalities 31 people were hospitalised after the plane broke up and partially sank in the river.

Both members of the crew testified that they were having trouble with the plane's rudder before the accident, and the rudder is a focus of the NTSB hearings. Scheduled to last four days.

Boeing has redesigned the rudder control on the 737, and the Federal Aviation Administration announced yesterday it had ordered the changes made.

Kleissas had never before piloted a 737 without supervision, which Martin knew, although the first officer had flown 3,200 hours on other planes, and had flown eight supervised 737 flights.

Martin piloted the plane from Baltimore to La Guardia, and by agreement Kleissas was to fly the next leg, from La Guardia to Charlotte, NC.

Kleissas said he felt the rudder drifting to the left from the very first and tried to compensate by giving the plane right rudder. When that wasn't sufficient, he compensated some more. Ultimately, he stopped because he was afraid the plane would overreact, he said.



GOVERNMENT WARNING: SMOKING IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF CANCER AND DISEASES OF THE LUNGS, HEART AND ARTERIES

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Mohammad



Takako Doi waves to crowds. (Reuters wirephoto)

Attacks, threats mar Japan poll campaign

Right-wing fringe targets leading politicians

TOKYO, Feb 14, (AP): Attacks on two politicians and threats against at least two others in the last month have cast a shadow over the campaign for Sunday's parliamentary elections and led to tightened security for the 953 candidates.

The targets all have been famous politicians, and the alleged attackers members of Japan's right-wing fringe.

Today, an anonymous male caller said a bomb had been planted on a

commercial flight that Socialist Party chairwoman Takako Doi was taking to Takamatsu, 547 kilometres (342 miles) southwest of Tokyo, police said. No bomb was found on the jet, and police refused to comment on the motive for the hoax.

Yesterday, Koichi Hamada of the governing Liberal Democratic Party was beaten over the head with a steel rod in a city east of Tokyo following a campaign rally, suffering moderate injuries.

Police said they arrested Minoru Uzawa, 27, a member of one of Japan's largest criminal syndicates, on suspicion of assault. They said Uzawa told them he attacked Hamada, who is campaigning for election to the lower house of parliament, because he "disliked him."

Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone was out campaigning in his constituency Sunday when 23-year-old Koji Konishi, a member of a rightist group, barged into his campaign office in Takasaki, 100 kilometres (60 miles) northwest of Tokyo, police said. Konishi fired shots from a handgun at a television set, a campaign poster and a doll symbolising good luck, police said.

None of the 11 people in the office was injured.

Konishi reportedly told police he didn't intend to kill anyone, but disliked Nakasone and wanted to "create a ruckus" to show the rest of Japan how the politician "had made a fool of the Japanese people."

Including Hamada, 27 important politicians in postwar Japan have been assaulted, the national police agency says. Most were controversial figures who angered right-wing fringe groups.

Ultrarightists have grown increasingly violent after keeping a low profile during a year of mourning following emperor Hirohito's death on Jan 7, 1989. Although guns are outlawed in Japan, rightist extremists are believed to use their alleged ties with criminal syndicates to procure weapons.

On Jan 18, Nagasaki Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima was shot and severely wounded in an attack that police have blamed on rightist leader Kazumi Tajiri, 40.

A leader of an obscure right-wing group called the Seikijuku, or Sane Thinkers' School, Tajiri told television interviewers in 1987 that he would kill somebody he hated "because after all, right-wingers are terrorists."

Motoshima angered right-wing groups that worship the imperial family when he said Hirohito shared some responsibility for World War II.

Rightist groups also were believed to have been angered by the links of Nakasone and other governing party leaders to the Recruit influence-buying scandal. Many conservative politicians were known to have profited from bargain-price shares offered to them by the Recruit information services conglomerate while Nakasone was prime minister.

Police quell riots in HK

HONG KONG, Feb 14, (Reuters): Police used tear-gas to quell two serious riots within hours of each other at Hong Kong's Whitehead Detention Centre, where international aid workers say violence is a feature of life.

Fighting first erupted last night, when an estimated 300 boat people battled each other with makeshift weapons. Twenty people were injured, 17 of them Vietnamese, before riot police using tear-gas restored order after three hours.

Shortly after dawn today, as police and prison officers finished a search for weapons, fresh fighting involving some 70 inmates erupted and tear-gas was again used.

Police said another 19 people were injured and taken to hospital and prison officers said the situation was "contained" after two hours.

Police blamed the violence on long-simmering factional differences between people from the northern Vietnamese province of Quang Ninh and the neighbouring port city of Haiphong.

Ish Bhagat, assistant commissioner for the corrections services department, said: "My staff have been up all night, and there's no one to replace them."

"We're shocked" — it's not easy to muster up enough officers to deal with this. The situation is serious. We are talking about 6,000 people here," he said in a reference to the number of boat people in the sections hit by rioting.

Camp workers said many women and children had hidden themselves in the huge, barrack-like camp dormitories when the fighting erupted.

Whitehead, in Hong Kong's new territories region, houses some 20,000 Vietnamese boat people. Camp workers describe it as a place plagued by gangs, where extortion and violence are an everyday occurrence.

"That place has been a tinderbox for months, and this comes as no surprise. It's riddled with corruption and gangs of Vietnamese youths have established themselves over the time they've been there. It's virtually impossible for the prison staff to contain that problem," said one aid worker.

Security in the camp is augmented by so-called "peace committees" made up of inmates who are paid small sums by prison authorities to help maintain order.

Camp workers say the gangs have infiltrated the committees, extorting small sums of protection money from families and beating up those who refuse to co-operate.

They said there were also a number of cases of sexual harassment of women by the gangs.

"The problem is the family structure, so important to Vietnamese society, has completely broken down. You have single, unattached men with time on their hands."

"It starts on the boats as they come over here and after months in the camps — it's so bad," an international aid worker with experience of Vietnam said.

Bhagat said he was aware of the allegations over the peace committees and said members were either elected or appointed by the camp authorities.



Two injured Vietnamese boat people are wheeled into a hospital Feb 13 after riot at Whitehead. (Reuters wirephoto)

Britain, China agree on HK

Mini-constitution

BEIJING, Feb 14, (UPI): Britain and China have reached basic agreement on a mini-constitution for Hong Kong after it reverts to mainland control in 1997, a senior Chinese official said today, but he refused to disclose details of the reported compromise.

"The two sides have reached a basic convergence," said Li Hou, head of the drafting committee of Hong Kong's basic law, the territory's post-1997 mini-constitution.

Britain and China had been unable to agree on the details of Hong Kong's future political system. The two sides were negotiating furiously behind the scenes to conciliate before an ongoing final round of talks on the basic law concludes Saturday.

The final draft of the document was to be completed by the end of this week's five-day plenum and submitted for ratification by the Chinese government in March.

A key issue is the number of seats in the territorial legislative council, known as Legco, that will be directly elected. The Hong Kong government's major ruling

Disarm Cambodia factions: Big five

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 14, (AP): The five permanent members of the Security Council say that sending warring Cambodian factions to camps where they can be supervised is a key to ending the fighting in the South-east Asian nation.

But representatives of the United States, Soviet Union, China, France and Britain concluded their talks yesterday without agreeing on proposals to disarm the Cambodian factions fighting for control of the country.

Diplomats said the talks also hit a snag over proposals to dismantle the government of Cambodian Premier Hun Sen and its army. The discussions were scheduled to end Monday, but were extended when the diplomats had trouble writing a communique.

UN diplomatic sources who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Soviet Union opposed moves led by China to urge disarming the Vietnam-backed Cambodian military and three guerrilla factions fighting it, including the Khmer Rouge.

The five countries issued a statement saying "the regrouping and cantonnement of the armed forces of the factions into designated areas" is essential to the peace process.

A diplomat following the consultations said the proposal to send the armies into designated areas would place them under supervision to prevent fighting from disrupting a peace process. The diplomat said international observers would monitor the camps in Cambodia.

The five countries also reiterated points stressed during their talks on Cambodia last month in Paris, saying the peace process must include a ceasefire, verified withdrawal of foreign forces, and an end to outside military assistance.

Vietnam says the last of its troops left Cambodia last year.

In New York, the five countries focused their discussions on proposals to get all parties in the conflict to lay down their arms and sought to define the shape of an interim government to rule until elections are held.

The statement said the five countries discussed possible UN administration of the country, a loose structure of interim government and the future role in Cambodia of Hun Sen and the three guerrilla groups allied in an uneasy coalition.

The Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia from 1975 until Vietnam invaded in late 1978 to oust them. During its reign, the Khmer Rouge was blamed for the deaths of nearly 1 million Cambodians due to executions, starvation and the hardship of forced mass relocation of the population to the countryside.

The five permanent members of the security council agreed to resume consultations at the ministerial level in Paris during the first half of March, planning to follow up on a conference on Cambodia set for Feb 26-28 in Indonesia.

An Australian team looking into ways to implement its government's peace plan for Cambodia held talks with Cambodian Premier Hun Sen after a week-long visit to the country, the official SPK news agency reported.



Please

A South Korean mother pleads for her dissident son's release from prison at a protest inside the main government complex near Seoul on Feb 14. She was one of about 25 demonstrators who forced their way into the complex to demand that an expected amnesty for 20 political prisoners on March 1 be expanded to include more people. Another 10 demonstrated outside. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hopeful of victory at Japan polls

Socialists gear up

TOKYO, Feb 14, (Reuters): After being out of power for more than 40 years, the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) is trying hard to convince the voters — and itself — that it is ready to govern.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has ruled for 34 years, is expected to squeak by with a narrow majority in the Feb 18 election.

But the JSP expects its own kind of victory at the polls — an end to one-party rule by the LDP — and it's setting aside its internal squabbles and softening its anti-US, anti-business stance of the past.

"If we want power, it is natural that we should start from reality," said Shigeru Ito, chairman of the JSP's policy board. "We should aim for reforms on a gradual but steady basis."

The JSP is not fielding enough candidates to stand a chance of winning outright victory on Sunday, but has said it would seek to rule with other non-communist parties.

The pro-business LDP faces its toughest test in more than three decades of rule in the parliamentary elections. Analysts expect it to maintain a narrow majority, but say the possibility of a Socialist-led coalition

cannot be ruled out.

"We are aiming for 140 seats. If we fail to win 130, we'll have to do some serious soul-searching," Ito said.

The JSP, the main opposition group, held 84 seats in parliament's powerful lower house before that 512-member chamber was dissolved for this month's election.

Led by the flamboyant Takako Doi, Japan's first female political leader, the JSP spearheaded an upset victory by the opposition in upper house elections last July.

Sex and money scandals, an unpopular sales tax and farmer anger at agriculture liberalisation all contributed to the LDP's loss of control of the upper house for the first time in its 34-year history.

"We were all thrilled at the dramatic change," Ito said. "It signifies the beginning of the end to single-party rule by the LDP and the dawning of a new era which can allow for a change of power."

But he admitted that the party has much work to do to get ready to govern.

"We might have fallen into the habit of thinking of ourselves as being a permanent opposition

party," Ito said. "We have to radically alter our style — shifting from opposing anything the government proposes to taking responsibility for the future of Japan."

That means giving up some of the party's most cherished beliefs because they are viewed as unrealistic by many of Japan's voters.

"It is only natural that we should continue to be on the side of the Western democracies," Ito said. "Our economy is based on market mechanisms. We don't adopt a government-controlled economy. But at the same time, we will impose restrictions or offer guidance to meet the needs of the whole society."

The party has also softened its opposition to the US-Japan security treaty, which was first signed in 1951 and which governs military relations between the two nations.

"We will allow the US-Japan security treaty to continue, the Japanese self-defence forces to exist and existing nuclear power plants to operate. From this reality, we make a start," Ito said.

The JSP used to be notorious for fierce intra-party ideological strife.

Japan to keep eye on chems

TOKYO, Feb 14, (Reuters): Japan's Trade Ministry will monitor exports of equipment that could be used to produce chemical weapons, a ministry official said today.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will ask Japanese exporters to specify how the equipment will be used by importing countries, he said. If potential uses seem dubious, exporters will be asked to "consult" with the ministry.

"This is not binding. But we hope that these measures will help reduce the possibility that facilities will be converted into production plants for chemical weapons," the official said.

Last year, the US government alleged that Japan steel works had built support equipment for a suspected chemical-weapons plant in Libya. The allegation was denied by the Japanese firm.

The MITI official said almost any chemical production equipment can be used to produce chemical weapons.

Police seized a record amount of 23.7 kg (52 pounds) of cocaine estimated to be worth 1.659 billion yen (\$1.4 million) at street value in a warehouse in Yokohama, the Tokyo metropolitan police said Wednesday.

It was the largest amount of cocaine seized at one time in Japan, breaking the previous record of 12 kg (26 pounds) confiscated in November, police officials said.

The cocaine was allegedly smuggled in by a Colombian jewellery dealer Benito Rodriguez.



Japanese to recall Perrier

Shopkeepers examine bottles of Perrier mineral water at a Tokyo liquor shop Feb 14, before taking off the shelves on fears of benzene contamination. The Japanese distributors Suntory Ltd said they will recall 200,000 bottles of Perrier on the market and halt new distribution of the product. (Reuters wirephoto)



Japanese to recall Perrier

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu fills in an absentee ballot paper at a Tokyo polling station Feb 14, four days before election to renew Japan's lower house. Because of his duties, Kaifu will be unable to vote in his home district near Nagoya on Feb 18. (Reuters wirephoto)

Japan's future princess Kawashima begins month-long classes on palace life

TOKYO, Feb 14, (AP): What does it take to become a princess?

Over the next month, 13 carefully selected tutors will try to answer that question for Kiko Kawashima, a college coed who will wed Emperor Akihito's younger son in June.

With a notebook clutched to her chest and her hair pulled back in a ponytail, Miss Kawashima arrived at the palace yesterday morning in a black, chauffeur-driven limousine to begin her "princess studies."

Miss Kawashima is a postgraduate student of psychology and where her father teaches economics.

The shortness of her royal studies — Empress Michiko's lasted nearly twice as long — reflects the omission of English, since she learned that language while living in the United States as a child.

And as the wife of Prince Aya, who is second in line to the throne, less will be required of her than of the woman who marries Aya's elder brother, Crown Prince Naruhito.

The government plans to spend roughly \$1 million on the June 29 wedding for Miss Kawashima and Aya, who is 24.

Naruhito has said he would like to marry by the age of 30, but he will reach that landmark later this month and is having trouble finding a suitable mate.

Several conservative palace watchers note that other classes formerly on the "must" list for prospective princesses were dropped, among them etiquette and "preparedness," apparently a general advisory course.

A recent article in a conservative weekly magazine, Shukan Shicho, expressed fears that because of Miss Kawashima's lack of noble background, 28 hours will not be enough time to prepare her for the highly organised and tradition-bound life of a princess.

Tabloids, meanwhile, have warned Miss Kawashima to be wary of members of the old nobility, who reportedly have made life in the palace difficult for Empress Michiko.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "لا تتركوا"

ANC discusses Mandela role and way forward

LUSAKA, Zambia, Feb 14, (AP) — The African National Congress today began a two-day meeting of its top policy-making body that was expected to focus on the future role in the organisation of Nelson Mandela.

No precise agenda for the talks was released and ANC officials gave no indication whether they expected Mandela, who was freed Sunday after 27 years in prison, to travel from South Africa to attend.

ANC international affairs spokesman Thabo Mbeki said the 35-member national executive committee will discuss a broad range of issues related to reforms announced by South African President F.W. de Klerk on Feb 2.

"The meeting will be discussing everything that has happened since De Klerk spoke on Feb 2," he told reporters at Lusaka's Mulungushi Hall. Mbeki said the ANC's 35-member executive committee was empowered to make firm decisions

without Mandela's presence.

"The leadership in South Africa know this (meeting) is taking place and they say every day that the executive (has) full powers to take all decisions," he said.

The talks are the first gathering of the national executive committee since De Klerk legalised the ANC on Feb 2. The guerrilla-backed organisation has maintained its external headquarters in Zambia for more than two decades.

Earlier today, senior committee member Joe Slovo said external leaders agreed to consult with their colleagues at home on any major issues and decided there was a split between moderates and militants in the ANC ranks.

"I think we will have to consult all leaders inside the country on any major departures or major aspects of the way ahead," he said. Slovo said there were no differences over whether the ANC guerrilla campaign should continue in the

light of the reforms announced by De Klerk.

"The issue of not unilaterally abandoning armed struggle at this stage has been the NEC, of internal fusion, no division about that or any other issue," said Slovo, who also is secretary general of the South African Communist Party.

Slovo said Mandela's leading role in the ANC was undisputed, but he did not indicate what Mandela's future position might be.

"His place in the organisation is a matter of public record. He is one of the prime leaders of the organisation. This was his position inside prison and it is even more so outside," Slovo added.

The meeting in Lusaka is expected to endorse the ANC stand on possible negotiations. In past statements, the organisation has maintained that De Klerk has not created a climate for talks nor shown a commitment to dismantle South Africa's apartheid system of racial separation.

ANC willing to compromise

Mandela backs attacks on state installations

SOWETO, Feb 14, (Agencies) — The African National Congress is willing to compromise with the white-led government on details of a post-apartheid political system as long as black rights are ensured, Nelson Mandela said today.

The 71-year-old black leader, giving his first interviews since his release on Sunday after 27 years in prison, was asked if the ANC was willing to ease its demand for a one-person, one-vote system which would lead to black rule, as long as that compromise is in the interest of not only one population group but for the country as a whole.

"Compromise must be made in respect to every issue, as long as that compromise is in the interest of not only one population group but for the country as a whole," Mandela told reporters outside his home. "That is the nature of compromises."

The ANC has repeatedly rejected any system falling short of one-person, one-vote. Mandela has stressed since his release that his movement would like to address white fears of black domination, although he opposes the government's concepts of "group rights," which would give special legal protection to whites and other minorities.

"We are aware of the fears of the whites in the country, of being dominated by blacks struggle against apartheid," Mandela said.

The freed black nationalist leader, asked if guerrillas would include targets like shopping centres in the ANC campaign against white rule, told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC): "We are concerned with government installations..."

White civilians would not be deliberately attacked but could be caught in crossfire. Mandela had been questioned about his endorsement on release from prison on Sunday of ANC guerrilla warfare.

Mandela was speaking in one of his first interviews since his release from a 1964 life sentence for plotting to overthrow white rule. He was convicted of planning the sabotage of power lines and government buildings.

Asked about the deaths of white civilians in ANC attacks, Mandela countered "... just as many whites have killed many blacks."

"You can't avoid people being caught up in crossfire when two groups are shooting at each other," he said.

"The people must not be worried only by the casualties which are caused by the oppressed, they must also be worried about the series of casualties which have been caused by the government over many decades."

Police, meanwhile, reported that a major new outbreak of fighting between rival black factions in Cape province had left at least nine people dead. Scores of houses were burned in fighting between anti-apartheid groups and conservative black forces, police said.

Police squads using tear gas, rubber bullets and shotguns were trying to quell the unrest at Kwanobuhle, near Uitenhage.

Four more killings were reported in Natal province, where black supporters and opponents of the ANC have been leading for three years. The government said army troops would be deployed to halt the black sectional fighting.

Mandela and his family stayed overnight at the four-room house in Soweto that he has rented for decades. The area was quiet after the wild scenes of jubilation yesterday when he returned to Soweto following his release from prison on Sunday.

He briefly left today to visit Elias Motosoali, an old comrade who was put on trial with Mandela in 1964 on sabotage charges and is now quite ill. As Mandela left his friend's house, he talked to some young children, urging them to go to school to gain an education and help fight apartheid.

African National Congress officials, who declined to be named, said plans were being made for Mandela to visit Zambia to consult with the organisation's exiled leadership.

More than 120,000 people crammed shoulder-to-shoulder into the country's largest stadium yesterday to greet the man revered by most South African blacks as their leader. For many in the crowd, it was their first glimpse of him.

"Today, my return to Soweto fills my heart with joy," Mandela said. "At the same time, I have returned with a deep sense of sadness that you are still suffering under an unjust system."

He said the African National Congress would "continue the armed struggle as long as the violence of apartheid continues." He also condemned black-against-black violence, saying it had weakened the fight against apartheid.

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad of Bangladesh has invited Mandela to visit Bangladesh. Ershad said Bangladesh's support against apartheid was total and would continue to extend support to majority population of South Africa till they achieve victory in their freedom struggle.

and we are addressing that very seriously and very earnestly," he said. "I am convinced that in discussions between the ANC and the government, we will be able to find a solution which will be accepted by everybody."

Mandela, who plans to consult soon with exiled ANC leaders in Zambia, did not elaborate on what compromises might be reached. Until earlier this month, the ANC was outlawed in South Africa. Its headquarters-in-exile have been in Lusaka.

"I think it would be most presumptuous of me to speak for the ANC," he said. "It is the ANC who would decide what compromises it should make. ... We are ready for honourable compromises without surrendering our principles."

In the months preceding his release, Mandela met frequently with senior government officials, including President F.W. de Klerk, to discuss prospects for negotiations between them and the ANC.

In these discussions, Mandela said today, "my optimism has been strengthened." South African government installations were legitimate targets for the ANC armed



Mandela walks in front of thousands of people gathered at Soweto soccer stadium to greet him. His wife Winnie is beside him. (Reuters wirephoto)

Refreshed

Ghali played a role in Mandela's release: Boutros Ghali, Egyptian minister of state, played a "pivotal" role in the release last Sunday of black South African activist leader Nelson Mandela, two investigative reporters asserted on Tuesday.

Jack Anderson and Dale van Atta, syndicated columnists, said about two years ago Ghali began applying pressure to all sides in the negotiations over Mandela's release.

South Africa, faced with heavy international economic sanctions, had said he might be freed but had to forego violence and anti-apartheid activities. Mandela had steadfastly refused.

Due to the respect Ghali enjoys as a negotiator on many fronts, "US and European officials sensed a change when Ghali took an interest," Anderson and Van Atta wrote.

Ghali, who wrote the 1979 speech the late Anwar Sadat delivered in Jerusalem paving the way for the Israeli-Egypt peace treaty, typically kept his talks with various officials quiet. (KUNA)

Ex-wife wishes Mandela well: Evelyn Mandela, the first wife of Nelson Mandela, says she wishes her ex-husband well, but doesn't have fond memories of their 13-year marriage.

The former Evelyn Mase, a cousin of Mandela's African National Congress colleague Walter Sisulu, met Mandela in Johannesburg and married him in 1944 when he was a struggling law student and she was working as a typist.

They divorced in 1957 after a long separation and after Mandela had already begun dating Winnie, the woman who was to become his second wife.

The paper quoted her as saying, they had bitter quarrels about the late nights he spent working for the African National Congress.

"When we had our last quarrel, I left our house... when I came back two months later all my pictures, everything, were gone," Mrs. Mandela was quoted as saying in a Sunday Times interview before Mandela's release from prison Feb 11. (AP)

Crowd at Mandela's home: Nelson Mandela returned Tuesday to the four-room brick house he remembered as home during 27 years in prison.

But the building is now a public monument, surrounded by hundreds of people waiting day and night for a glimpse of their symbolic leader.

Mandela spent his first two nights of freedom in large homes in neighbourhoods designated for whites, apparently to prevent jubilant crowds from gathering at the Soweto home and possibly becoming unruly.

His wife, Winnie, was severely criticised by the press and some members of the public when she had a 15-room, \$200,000 mansion built on a hillside in 1987. (AP)



Mandela is taking refreshments at the garden of his Soweto house. (Reuters wirephoto)

Refreshed

Israel asked to do same as S. Africa: Now that white-ruled South Africa has "un-banned" black opposition groups Israel should do the same with the PLO, a key Arab-American organisation declared Tuesday.

And it called on the US Congress to press Israel on this basis.

Jawad George, head of the National Association of Arab-Americans (NAAA), said in a statement in Washington.

"South Africa's new direction is due, at least in part, to political, economic, and moral pressure exerted by Western nations, including the United States."

He also noted that South Africa was soaked with heavy economic sanctions while Israel "receives more than \$5 billion in US funds annually."

The US said to Israel helped it continue its occupation of Arab lands. George said, adding the money "places a moral responsibility on the US Congress to work for the peaceful resolution of the Palestinian issue."

The Arab-American leader called on American lawmakers to press Israel to:

- "Un-ban" the PLO and begin talks with it;
- End all forms of collective punishment like land confiscation and home demolition;
- halt the "creeping deportation" of Palestinians while Soviet Jews are being welcomed into the occupied territories;
- Permit no new settlements;
- discontinue the expansion of old settlements in the seized Arab lands. (KUNA)

UK MPs shout down Thatcher

LONDON, Feb 14, (AP) — Legislators shouted down Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher yesterday when she defended her policy of easing sanctions against South Africa.

Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock called Thatcher "absurd and arrogant" for seeking to ease sanctions supported by Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader who was freed from prison on Sunday.

More uproar erupted during question time in the House of Commons, with Labour's spokesman on foreign affairs suggesting Thatcher should spend 27 years in jail, like Mandela.

Thatcher remained standing, sometimes trying to shout above the noise, as opposition legislators yelled and jeered and her own Conservative Party followers shouted back across the green leather benches of the Commons.

Speaker Bernard Weatherill called repeatedly for order.

"This sounds awful ..." he said. "I've never heard the House behave in this way of question time."

When Kinnock referred to Mandela's support for sanctions, Thatcher accused his party of taking "his lectures" from the ANC. After loud protests, Thatcher withdrew the remark. "Mr Mandela also said he approved of armed struggle," she said. "I disagree with him on that and I disagree with him on the present situation."

Thatcher said both the Labour Party and the ANC believed in comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa, the armed struggle and widespread nationalisation of industry.

"Mr Mandela naturally said he supports all three in what I would call his ritual speech," she said, referring to Mandela's address on Sunday upon his release. "I believe he is making very much better and more peaceful speeches during his (subsequent) press conferences."

Adedeji said a lack of rights, such as freedom of speech, in many authoritarian states had demotivated people, leading to lower productivity and contributing to Africa's severe economic problems.

It was attended by some 400 delegates, including African officials and representatives from foreign donor nations, African trade unions and youth and women's groups.

Adedeji said a lack of rights, such as freedom of speech, in many authoritarian states had demotivated people, leading to lower productivity and contributing to Africa's severe economic problems.

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Ignorant Yankees

Disturbing US finding

Late degree

WASHINGTON, Feb 14, (UPI) — Earning a bachelor's degree in four years is a "thing of the past" for the vast majority of students enrolling in college, according to a study released yesterday.

The National Institute of Independent Colleges and Universities report used Education Department records to track 28,000 students, who graduated from high school in 1980 and went to college, over a six-year period.

Oscar Porter, NIICU assistant executive director and author of the study, said a half century of studies have found that about 50 per cent to 55 per cent of students who begin college earn a degree.

But the report found only 15.5 per cent of the 1980 high school graduates who went to college had received a degree in the traditional four years.

However, by 1986, 40.7 per cent had earned a degree, 4.5 per cent were enrolled for a sixth year, and 10.4 per cent were in school after delaying enrollment or leaving college for a time and enrolling again. Dropouts made up 44.3 per cent of the total.

"Students are taking more time to complete their degrees," Porter said. "The four-year bachelor's degree is a thing of the past for the vast majority of students."

The study found students from the upper classes and with greater ability had higher completion rates with two exceptions. Economic status had little effect of Hispanics, and the two quarters of black students were less likely to earn a degree than any black students other than those in the lowest quarter.

Porter said the "disturbing" finding on black students might reflect the small number included in the sample. But he said that as a researcher it "set off warning bells" and should point the way for future studies.

"The loss of this segment of the most academically talented black students has dire implications for colleges and universities, for the black community, and for the nation," he wrote in the report.

protracted war.

A recent Gallup poll found that Americans are the worst spellers in the English-speaking world. On average, Americans misspelled six of the following ten words: Magazine, sandwich, kerosene, calamity, penitentiary, picnic, deceive, accelerator, cauliflower and parallel.

Even some professional writers and those who are paid to correct their copy make gross mistakes. In a recent full-page advertisement in the glossy Washingtonian magazine, for example, Pentagon was spelled "Pentagon".

"This nation," Bush said in his State of the Union address, "will not accept anything but excellence in education."

Bush, who has declared himself "education president," and senior officials of his administration are warning that the United States will be unable to compete

in the world market without an educated work force.

How to raise educational standards is a matter of debate in a country whose schools have no uniform national curriculum and are subject to a bewildering variety of state and local controls.

At the top layer of the educational system there are high-fee universities that are the envy of the world — Harvard, Yale, Stanford and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to name a few.

At the lower levels, academics say, millions of children go through overcrowded public schools where violence and drug-dealing compete with academic subjects.

Most experts agree that the problem lies at the elementary and high school levels rather than with universities — but even their graduates show huge gaps in general knowledge.

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION — WINNERS AND LOSERS

by John Garufi and Benito Rotella

PART TWO: CHOOSING A CONSULTANT

Sorry. There is no way around it. You have substantial financial resources to invest in Canada and you want to immigrate. You need a consultant.

Step number one is how to pick the right consultant. Some are good, some are bad. What criteria do you need before you make the choice? Here is an immigrant-friendly guide to the choice of consultant.

A good consultant makes basic decisions in the beginning that can save you a lot of trouble. He will probably offer you, free of charge, initial consultation on whether or not you qualify for Canada. If you don't pass the first steps you are not going to get far. A bad consultant might overlook something in the beginning and cause you a needless process of application.

Step two is to decide with your consultant what immigration program is best for you. Are you, for example, best suited for the Business Investor Program or the Entrepreneur Program. If he is good, he will recommend a program that fits into your background or is based solidly on the facts of your personal and financial potential.

In this step, he will want to know if you can prove your claim to business experience, for example. He is only doing what you will be required to do at an official level.

Helping you to apply for Canadian permanent status is the first start. A good consultant has all the forms available and guides you through each of the relevant pieces of information. A bad consultant will say, "Fill these in and come back in the morning."

Eventually, you will want to apply for Canadian citizenship. If there is no follow-up program to help you with this, then you are probably dealing with a less than active consultant.

You are going to need either a business plan or an investment plan. The consultant must have an expert on hand to help you prepare this. After all, it has to be approved before your immigration visa is granted. So it has to be good. A good measure is to find out how much experience the consulting firm has had in this field.

A bad consultant will close the door after you leave and let your file drift through the bureaucracy it is doomed for. A good consultant will follow your file through with the immigration authorities in Canada right up to

when your visa is approved, and if he is really good, beyond that.

You've got to play him with the relevant questions. Write them down before you come. Consultants should be able to tell you about the taxation in Canada, its social programs, the education available for your children, what the best city would be for you in which to live. Good consultants provide a lot of background information on all these questions and provide relevant reading material for you to study at home.

You will want to know how long the process will take. It depends on a lot of factors, but a good consultant should be able to tell you approximately how long.

While you're sitting at home waiting for your file to be completed, a good consultant will visit you in your own country to let you know how things are going and to answer any questions you might have. A bad consultant will wait until you ring him.

The real test comes when you land in Canada. If you have chosen well, your consultant will assist you in finding accommodation. He will even make sure you have transport from the airport. He will help you enroll your children in the school of your choice and when you decide on your city of choice, he will assist you in finding the right house or apartment in which you want to live.

If you have made the right choice, you will be fully prepared by your consultant for the times ahead. If he has done his job properly, he would have already helped you start to familiarize yourself with the Canadian way of life. He would have prepared you for the first couple of years, when the going is tough for any immigrant.

You are entrusting your family's future to a consulting firm. Choosing the consultant is therefore a number one priority on your check-list for immigration. Isn't it worth your while to look for a good consultant who knows the facts? He's dealing with human lives after all.

But after all this, remember that immigration is a relatively simple affair. Either you qualify or you don't. Either you've chosen the right consultant to ease the way into your new world or you haven't. So check them out. Ring around. Get references. You might even like to start with us. Contact:



International Entrepreneurs I.E.C. Ltd
Tel: (514) 288-7825 Telex: 055-81985 Fax: (514) 8451472
2075 University St. Suite 1712 Montreal, QC H3A 2L1 Canada

Don't miss facts about immigration to Canada. Every Thursday, Arab Times

No large troop cut in Korea: Cheney

SEOUL, Feb 14, (AP): US Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney reaffirmed today Washington's "unequivocal" security commitment to South Korea and said there would be no large-scale cutbacks in US troops.

"Speculation regarding a US withdrawal from the peninsula or drastic reduction of our troop presence here disregards the obvious threat to peace on the peninsula which remains real and has not diminished," Cheney said upon arrival at a military airport outside Seoul.

Cheney flew in from Hawaii, where he reviewed overall US military deployment and the latest Soviet military moves in the Pacific. Seoul was his first Asian stop in a two-week tour that also will take him to Hong Kong, Manila and Tokyo.

"The US commitment to (South) Korea remains firm and unequivocal... and there should be no misunderstanding regarding the firmness of that commitment," he said.

Cheney was to formally begin his South Korean visit tomorrow by receiving a briefing from US military officials and holding talks with his South Korean counterpart, Lee Sang-Hoon. In between, he was to meet with President Roh Tae-Woo.

On Friday, the secretary is to visit US and South Korean units along the front line and the truce village of Panmunjom inside the demilitarized zone separating South and North Korea.

Installations Cheney is scheduled to leave for Hong Kong early Saturday en route to Manila for three days of talks and visits to Clark Air Base and the Subic Bay naval base, among the largest American military installations outside the US.

Although he will have a round of meetings Monday with Philippine officials, President Corason Aquino has said she will not meet with him.

Aquino is angry that President George Bush's administration hasn't met payments on its bases in the Philippines.

"It's too bad Mrs Aquino didn't want to host me. That's her choice. I've got plenty to do there to keep me busy," Cheney said.

Talks on renewing the leases on the huge US bases in the Philippines are slated to begin next month. "We want to be a good friend and ally, but we won't stay anywhere we aren't wanted," Cheney said.

The Defence Secretary strongly disagreed with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's call to have US and Soviet troops in Europe at equal levels.

"I don't believe there's any requirement on our part to go to the exact same level the Soviets are at," Cheney said.

US and South Korean officials said Cheney's agenda in Seoul would focus on troop cuts and an increase in Seoul's share of the cost of maintaining US forces here.

About 43,000 US troops are currently stationed in South Korea under a mutual defence treaty signed in 1954, one year after the three-year Korean war ended.

Before leaving Honolulu, Cheney said the United States must keep up its guard against the Soviet Union, which he said remains a formidable military force in the Pacific.

The secretary said he had no plans "to dramatically alter our posture in the Pacific," but added, "I don't rule out prospects for adjustments in our deployments or in the overall size of our forces."

Action

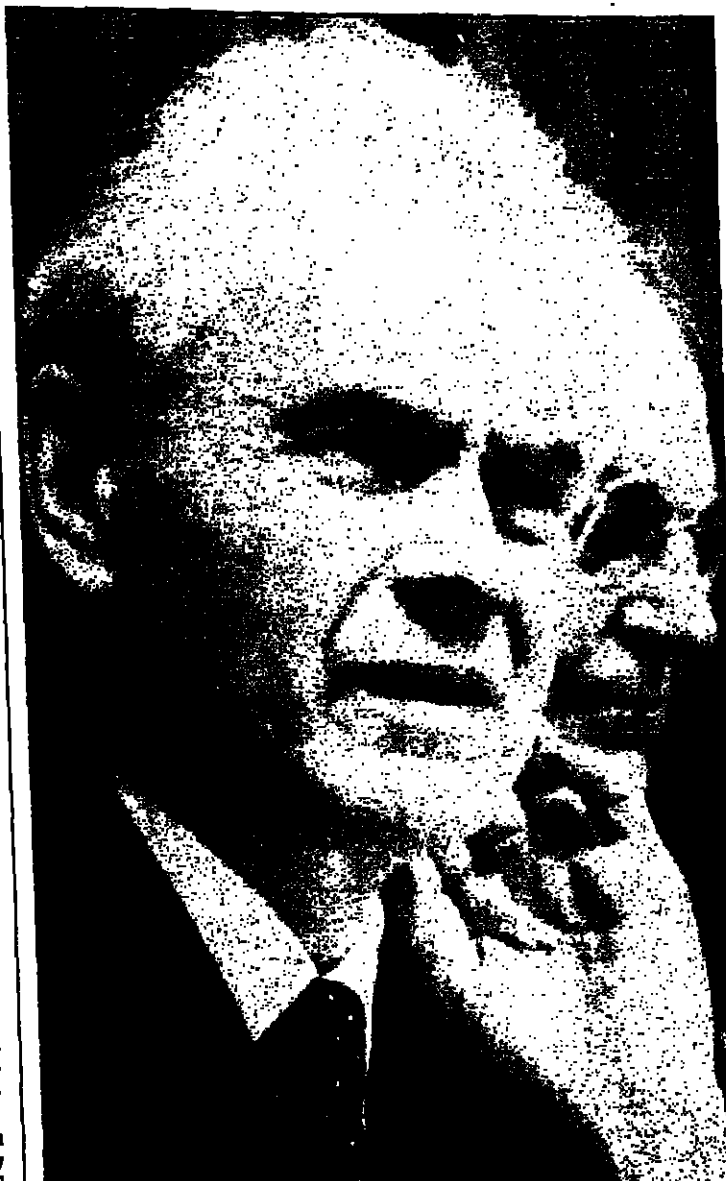
American troop reductions are a highly sensitive topic in security-conscious South Korea. The Korean peninsula has been divided into the capitalist South and the communist North since 1945.

Two weeks ago, the United States surprised many people here by announcing the closing of three of its five air bases in South Korea. American officials said the action would affect 2,000 air-support personnel and indicated there could be more adjustments this year.

South Korean officials later indicated they would agree to the withdrawal of 3,000 more troops, all non-combatants, bringing to 5,000 the total number of US soldiers to be withdrawn this year.

Sources in the South Korean Defence Ministry have said that Seoul would agree to increase its share of the cost of maintaining American troops in its territory "within the limit of its capability."

US officials say it costs \$2.2 billion a year in direct costs to maintain the American troops in South Korea.



Modrow tries to listen to a journalist's question as Kohl looks on at a news conference in Bonn. (Reuters wirephoto)

Germans hail Ottawa accord

Bonn approves aid

FRANKFURT, Feb 14, (Agencies): The Ottawa agreement on German unification won high praise in East and West Germany today, as the two countries woke to news of international acceptance of the move.

East German Premier Hans Modrow, in Bonn for a two-day summit with West German leaders, welcomed the agreement to hold talks among the two Germans, the US and Soviet superpowers, Britain and France on security and political issues connected with unification, said East German government spokesman Rolf Bachmann.

Modrow considered the six-power approach to German unity the best way to ensure the interests of the World War II victor powers were protected, as well as those of the German states, Bachmann said.

"We see this as an exceptionally important development and a great success for the West German foreign minister, an important step toward German unity," said Hans-Dietrich Genscher, a spokesman for Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Foreign ministers of the German states, France, Britain, the Soviet Union and United States announced late Tuesday after meeting in Canada that they would open negotiations on security and political issues connected with reunification.

No date for such a meeting was given, but before it takes place the two Germans will discuss the considerable domestic hurdles that must be overcome to unify the countries.

With Tuesday's announcement, the powers that divided Nazi Germany following World War II acknowledged that reunification was inevitable now that communist rule had collapsed in East Germany.

Talks on unifying Germany came too late for most West German newspapers, but West Germany's ARD television went live to its correspondent in Ottawa late Tuesday, with the reporter saying that most issues seemed clear but that the problem of the NATO membership of West Germany had been temporarily "set to one side."

Indeed, the brief, one-paragraph statement from Ottawa did not mention a united Germany's military allegiance.

The United States wants the state to remain in NATO, while the Soviets have pressed for a neutral united Germany.

"Astoundingly fruitful," East Germany's official news agency

ADN said in describing the two-day conference in Ottawa, originally planned as a gathering of NATO and Warsaw Pact representatives to discuss opening their skies to surveillance overflights.

"The dramatic progress of events in the heart of Europe pushes toward negotiations," ADN said.

ADN stressed that the discussions about unification "will also include the questions of security of neighbouring states."

Meanwhile, West Germany said today it would spend 5.7 billion marks (\$3.45 billion) to improve living conditions in East Germany, a day after the two countries and four allied powers agreed on talks toward German reunification.

East had asked Bonn officials for up to 15 billion marks (\$9 billion) in "solidarity aid" to tide East Germany's economy over until the March 18 elections.

The East German economy has been crippled by the Western exodus of hundreds of thousands of skilled workers, seeking to escape the orthodox socialist system. The exodus and widespread pro-democracy demonstrations led to a peaceful revolution that has radically altered the nation politically and socially, with the Communist Party giving up its guaranteed power and opening borders to the West.

The announcement to Ottawa of unification talks was unexpected because the Soviet Union and East Germany had previously tried to stall movement toward rejoining the German states. It appeared the sudden impetus emerged from fears of a possible East German economic collapse and beliefs that union with West Germany was the only solution.

On Tuesday, West German officials appeared to reject Modrow's appeal for immediate economic aid, indicating they didn't want the money spent by a government that may be voted out in the March elections.

But following the Ottawa announcement, West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said today the government had agreed at a cabinet meeting to a 1990 supplementary budget of 6.9 billion marks (\$4.18 billion), mostly to cover costs resulting from East German reforms.

The extra spending includes the 5.7 billion marks for "immediate measures" to improve living conditions in East Germany. It was not clear how soon the money would be available.

Sharp forces reduction in Europe announced

Six-power group formed to oversee German unification

OTTAWA, Feb 14, (Agencies): The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to a sharp reduction in troop strength in central Europe in a plan that would lower each superpower's forces to 195,000 soldiers in that area.

Foreign ministers from East and West agreed that a six-power group should be formed to oversee German unification.

The United States could keep up to 30,000 troops elsewhere in Europe under the agreement, Canadian External Affairs Minister Joseph Clark announced last evening. The accord worked out during a conference of NATO and Warsaw Pact foreign ministers represents Soviet acceptance of an initiative US President George Bush proposed Jan 31.

Clark made the announcement in a conference hall with US Secretary of State James

A. Baker III, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and other foreign ministers looking on. Baker and Shevardnadze did not speak.

The United States now has about 305,000 troops in Europe, of which about 275,000 are on the central front — mostly West Germany — and 30,000, generally in navy and air force units, in Greece, Turkey, Italy, Spain and Britain.

The Soviet Union has about 565,000 troops in East Germany, Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia — four nations that have shed orthodox communist governments.

Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia are negotiating troop reductions with the Soviet Union.

US negotiators contended the United States should be allowed to keep an extra 30,000 soldiers on the continent outside of central Europe because the Soviets could get reinforcements to Europe much more quickly, source said.

All 16 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and seven Warsaw Pact members endorsed the agreement on troops.

"It overcomes one of the most difficult obstacles" to a conventional forces reduction treaty the two alliances are negotiating in Vienna, Austria, Clark said.

But wide differences remain on combat aircraft. Baker, in a speech to the Ottawa conference on Monday, accused the Soviets of trying to lock in an advantage of 2,000 combat aircraft over NATO.

US officials said there could be a decision to exclude aircraft from the weapons to be covered by the treaty. But, for the time being, the agreement on troop reductions does not make completion of the treaty automatic.

Other conventional weapons to be limited include tanks, armoured personnel carriers and helicopters.

Clark's announcement late yesterday came as a surprise.

Only last Friday in Moscow, Gorbachev countered Bush's proposal with two options: Either a 225,000 or 195,000 ceiling, but no sub-limit for Central Europe.

That is where most Soviet troops in Europe are now based, with about 380,000 in East Germany alone.

But after four meetings with Baker, Shevardnadze essentially accepted the US approach, including the allowance for an extra 30,000 US troops.

Under the agreement, some 400,000 Soviet troops and 80,000 US soldiers would have to withdraw.

Shevardnadze, in a brief exchange with reporters after Clark's announcement, sidestepped whether Gorbachev had yielded to Bush.

The Soviet Foreign Minister said Gorbachev had never rejected Bush's proposal. "He did not say he would not agree to that," Shevardnadze said.

The foreign minister quipped: "Are you disappointed?"

The agreement on troop limitations capped a series of breakthroughs during Baker's nine days in Europe and Canada.

In Moscow, he and Soviet officials resolved several key issues that stood in the way of a treaty to reduce long-range missiles, bombers and submarines by 30 to 50 per cent.

Sea-launched cruise missiles were separated from the emerging treaty that Bush and Gorbachev intend to sign at their summit meeting in Washington in June.

The four World War II allies who defeated and divided Nazi Germany 45 years ago have agreed to a format for reunifying Germany and have begun a process aimed at ensuring the rejoined country will not threaten world security.

Foreign ministers from France, Britain, the Soviet Union and United States announced that they would meet with their counterparts from East and West Germany to discuss the alignment and military strength of a unified Germany.

No date for such a meeting was given, but before it takes place the two Germans will be left alone to tackle the considerable domestic hurdles that must be overcome before unity is possible.

With yesterday's announcement, the powers that divided Germany in 1945 clearly acknowledged that reunification is inevitable now that communist rule has collapsed in East Germany.



Clark (right) talks with Baker (left) and Shevardnadze before the start of the second day of meetings at the Opék Siles conference in Ottawa. (Reuters wirephoto)

Israel need not fear unified Germany:

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, in a departure from recent Israeli statements, has said Israel need not fear a democratic, unified Germany.

In remarks broadcast by Israel Radio yesterday, Arens said no Jew could think about German reunification without remembering the Nazi Holocaust in which six million Jews were exterminated during World War II.

But he said: "If that united Germany is a democratic Germany... fully conscious of the responsibilities that it has towards the Jewish people, a country that will contribute to strengthening democracy throughout the world, then I don't think that there's a danger to be concerned about."

The statement was in sharp contrast to remarks by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir last November when he said the prospect of a unified Germany was a grave concern for the Jewish people. Shamir's statement angered West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. (Reuters)

Germans support Berlin as capital: A survey has shown that 58 per cent of West Germans and 92 per cent of East Germans questioned want military neutrality for a unified Germany, a magazine said Tuesday.

The survey also showed overwhelming support for Berlin as the capital of a single Germany, the Munich-based weekly magazine Quick said.

The survey, which questioned a total of 3,599 Germans — 2,170 in West Germany and 1,429 in East Germany — was conducted for the magazine by the Tübingen-based Wickeit Institute.

Seven per cent of East Germans and 42 per cent of West Germans questioned would want a unified Germany to be a NATO member, the survey said. (AP)

WW II victors hold sway over Germany: Since the unconditional surrender of Adolf Hitler's Armed Forces on May 8, 1945 there has been no central authority whose writ runs in the whole of Germany.

By the Berlin declaration of June 5, 1945, the four World War II victors — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — assumed supreme responsibility over Germany.

The Western powers were unable to agree with the Soviet Union on any fundamental issue and finally, on March 20, 1948, Moscow walked out of the Allied Control Council.

The present West Germany was formed in 1949 by putting together the sectors governed by the Western allies. The agreements between the war-time allies concerning the occupation zones were repudiated by the Soviet Union in 1958.

The division between West Germany and East Germany intensified when the communists erected



West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel (left) and Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann talk before a cabinet meeting in Bonn. The main topic of the cabinet meeting will be to discuss a supplementary budget for aid programmes for East Germany. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aid plan The Berlin Wall in 1961, Berlin, the capital of prewar Germany, became the focal point of East-West tension. (Reuters)

Delors calls for summit on Germany: European Commission President Jacques Delors Tuesday proposed that the leaders of the 12 European Economic Community nations hold a special summit meeting to discuss German reunification.

Such a summit should touch on the political, economic and monetary aspects of reunification and their effects on the EEC, he told the European Parliament.

The European Commission is the EEC's executive body.

He spoke at West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and East German Premier Hans Modrow agreed in Bonn to start talks on a common currency. (AP)

Kohl dismisses election speculation: West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl appeared to dismiss speculation on Tuesday that all-German elections could be held in 1990 as part of the German reunification process.

Asked if he thought the date for West German parliamentary elections on Dec 2 would be changed so that joint elections could take place in both parts of Germany, he replied: "I do not think this date will change."

Poland seeks role in German unity negotiations

LONDON, Feb 14, (Reuters): Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki demanded today that Poland be involved in negotiations on German unification to guarantee his country's security.

"We want to be present wherever the question of security of Germany's neighbours would be discussed. Our security matters cannot be settled by proxy for us," he told a news conference in London.

He also called for a treaty ensuring the inviolability of Poland's post-war borders, which include large territories previously held by Germany.

"As you know the Germans, especially West Germany, have always maintained they cannot take a definite position because no treaty has been signed so let us cross this threshold," Mazowiecki said.

The demand underlined Poland's unease at the prospect of a united Germany emerging on its doorstep while it lacks formal guarantees for its frontiers carved out 45 years ago by the four World War Two victor powers — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

Poland did not reject, but wanted to supplement yesterday's agreement in Ottawa to create a six-power group with Bonn and East Berlin to oversee German unification.

Mazowiecki made clear observer status for Warsaw would not be sufficient.

"Either one is present there, and our voice matters or one looks at it from a distance," he said.

But in Bonn, West Germany virtually rejected today Poland's demand to join a six-power group.

government sources said.

"It would not be meaningful to include Poland in the six-nation talks," one source said.

The sources said East and West Germany would seek agreement on unity within their current borders and no claims would be made on Polish territory.

They would then sit down as equal partners with the four allied powers that conquered Nazi Germany in 1945 to discuss the future of their respective military alliances.

In Warsaw one commentator called West Germany's attitude to the Polish frontier a touchstone of German honesty towards the whole of Europe. Another said Poland would be wise not to ask Soviet troops to leave before a new European security system was created.

Czech reds in trouble as 2 quit

PRAGUE, Feb 14, (UPI): Two communist ministers resigned from the Czechoslovak government yesterday and a third was expected to follow suit in a blow to the already weakened Communist Party.

The resignations will leave the once-all-powerful Czechoslovak Communist Party with only five seats in the 21-member coalition government, but the party still retains the powerful Ministry of Defence.

It was not clear whether the three resigned on their own or were forced from office.

When the coalition was formed a month and a half ago, it included several communists in top spots, but Prime Minister Marian Calfa and his two deputy prime ministers all turned in their communist party cards last month.

Also yesterday, Czechoslovakia backed down from its demand that the Soviet Union withdraw all 73,500 Soviet troops from the country before the end of 1990.

Czechoslovak authorities said the Soviets would have until an unspecified date in 1991 to completely withdraw their forces.

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel, speaking at a regularly scheduled news conference yesterday, suggested that Czechoslovakia agreed to extend the deadline after he received a personal letter from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The government announced late yesterday the resignations of Frantisek Pinc, Minister of Fuel and Energy, and Ladislav Vodrazka, Minister of Metallurgy, Engineering and Electrical Engineering. Earlier in the day, a government spokesman had said Frantisek Podlensky, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications, would resign.

At his press conference, Havel said he would discuss the resignations with Calfa.

Two ministers were replaced by Havel yesterday, reducing the number of communists in Czechoslovakia's coalition government to three out of 20, the official CTK news agency said.



Thatcher toasts with Mazowiecki after a dinner at No. 10 Downing Street. (Reuters wirephoto)

Dramatic moves help establish new world structure

WASHINGTON, Feb 14, (AP): The past week's dramatic moves by the United States, the Soviet Union and their chief allies has established a framework for the most sweeping East-West changes since World War II.

The agreements open the way for the reunification of Germany, the reduction of superpower forces in Europe and the expansion of US-Soviet trade.

Last week in the Soviet Union, President Mikhail Gorbachev won an endorsement

from the Communist Party central committee for his plan to give up the party's monopoly on power for the first time in about 70 years.

US Secretary of State James Baker, who visited Moscow last week, and Gorbachev made progress toward an agreement for deep cuts in the superpowers' long-range nuclear arsenals.

The swiftly moving talks culminated in Ottawa yesterday with the announcement of a framework for German unification—agreed

upon by the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and East and West Germany—and a US-Soviet agreement to reduce the number of soldiers they have stationed in Central Europe.

Germany, divided since the country's defeat in World War II in 1945, serves as the deployment point for more than 500,000 foreign soldiers who have faced each other through the US-Soviet cold war.

"This (reunification) agreement shows

everybody has seen German unity will happen, and they have agreed to a process that will provide stability and peace for Europe," said a West German diplomat in Washington who asked not to be identified.

The German reunification agreement announced in Ottawa sets up a two-step process to start after the March 18 elections in East Germany.

Moscow has insisted that Germany remain

neutral after reunification and the United States is arguing that Germany be allowed to remain part of the Western alliance.

Under the agreement, the two Germanys first would settle internal details, then they would work the British, France, the Soviet Union and United States—the four main victorious allies in World War II—to establish agreements assuring peace and stability for Europe.

The US-Soviet troop cuts, announced by Canadian External Affairs Minister Joseph Clark at the end of an East-West meeting in Ottawa, would allow the United States and the Soviet Union to have 195,000 soldiers each on Europe's central front.

US and Soviet trade negotiators also said yesterday they expect to complete a treaty to normalise trade between the two nations in time for signing during the June summit meeting in Washington.

Romania rally to purge military

BUCHAREST, Feb 14, (AP): Hundreds of civilians who fought alongside the army in December's revolution thronged to Victory Square today to support officers demanding a purge of military who backed ousted communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

At the nearby headquarters of state-controlled television, civilians blocked one entrance to prevent members of the parachute regiment who have guarded the building since ex-agents of Ceausescu's hated Securitate secret police.

Gen. Dan Gabor, commander of the parachute unit, told the Associated Press he would not order his troops to move because "I do not recognise orders coming from the Ministry of National Defence."

Demands
Nearly 300 uniformed air force and army officers protested outside government headquarters in Victory Square for a third day while 49 of their representatives refused to leave the building until they presented a list of 13 demands to interim President Ion Iliescu. So far, the officers said Iliescu had refused to meet with them.

The protest represents the first time the military has challenged the government it helped create in December's revolution. Many officers said they felt their victory was being squandered because former communists were trying to protect their positions, preventing the anti-Ceausescu coup from being completed as an all-encompassing anti-communist revolution.

The officers' key demand is that Defence Minister Gen. Nicolae Militaru and Interior Minister Gen. Mihai Chitac, both tainted by long association with the Ceausescu regime, resign along with other military staff who carried out the dictator's orders during the revolution.

An air force colonel among the 49 officers trying to negotiate said Militaru had ordered their eviction from the building but they refused to go. Like all the officers, he refused to give his name.

"No real force was applied against us—after all, we are still a power to be reckoned with in this country," the colonel said. "Only Iliescu can help us in this situation."

Iliescu has retained his interim presidency following a meeting Tuesday of the ruling provisional council of national unity which set up guidelines for its operation.

The 253-member council decided to set up 16 commissions to deal with specific issues, including one to investigate the "abuses" committed by Ceausescu's leadership and another on constitutional and human rights.

The Ministry of Defense last night dismissed the officers' demands as ignorant and an affront to military values which have assured stability.

Officers in the square responded with contempt today and insisted that "the few" who were not with them were afraid of losing their positions. Their demands were signed by 28 army and air force units and more have given support since the list was presented.

"We are absolutely 100 per cent committed and will certainly stay here as long as it takes, even weeks, until our demands are met," said an air force lieutenant major. "The entire army is with us. Only a foreign assault can get us out of here."

The officers said there were unconfirmed reports that Militaru had ordered a state of alert outside Bucharest to prevent other officers from reaching the capital, and that two trainloads of navy officers from the black sea port of Constanta had been stopped by unidentified security forces.

Sentenced
Seven members of Romania's dreaded Securitate secret police have been jailed for long terms of up to 20 years for conspiring to commit genocide during the December revolution.

Ethnic Germans are streaming out of Romania, highly sceptical that anything is going to change following last December's revolution.

Gorby suffers setback in bid to boost power

Radicals unhappy over plans for constitutional changes

MOSCOW, Feb 14, (Agencies): President Mikhail Gorbachev suffered a setback in efforts to boost the power of his office today when parliament put off a vote to convene a session of the supreme legislature needed to change the constitution.

Bowing to objections from radical deputies, who want more time to discuss the issue, Gorbachev dropped a proposal he made earlier in the day to push for an immediate decision on calling a meeting of the Congress of People's Deputies, on Feb 27.

The Soviet leader instead sought the backing of the standing inner

parliament, the Supreme Soviet, merely to discuss within the next few days the calling of the congress. Parliament approved his compromise by 304 votes to 95.

Gorbachev took the floor at the end of the debate today and angrily attacked his critics.

"Unless democracy is strengthened and insured by corresponding mechanisms, democracy will perish and we'll lose" to forces who want "to tighten the screws even tighter than they were earlier," Gorbachev told the 434 members of the legislature.



The Republican Water Ministry building burns after riots.



Heavy clouds of tear-gas hang over Dushanbe's main square as hundreds of young Tajiks battle police and troops. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorbachev for harsh action

Dushanbe unrest

(Continued from Page 1)

the crisis, which erupted Monday with pogroms against Armenian refugees from last month's violence in Azerbaijan. Military planes again airlifted frightened Armenians from the city today.

Tass quoted Tajik Interior Minister Mamadaev Navzhanov as saying that 12 people had died and 143 were wounded, including 50 police or soldiers, but Soviet television reported 37 deaths late Tuesday.

The rioters announced they had chosen a provisional committee, "which, in their opinion, is to rule the republic," Tass said.

In addition to demanding the Tajik leaders' resignation, the protesters wanted the deportation of all Armenian refugees, the release of 25 people arrested Monday, the closing of an aluminum plant harming the environment and the return of all profits from locally grown cotton, Radio Moscow's Tajik news service said.

Mobs surrounding the Tajik party building hurled firebombs and bottles filled with sulfuric acid and stones and shouted threats against Russian-speaking people in Dushanbe, a multi-ethnic city of 316,000 in Western Tajikistan, Tass said.

"Tanks and armoured troop carriers are visible in the streets and squares of the capital of Soviet Tajikistan," Tass said.

"Helicopters constantly circle the sky."

Interfax quoted Soviet army headquarters in Dushanbe as saying that soldiers had refused to intervene in the violence.

The decision that is deployed in Dushanbe has not entered into this conflict and will not do so," Interfax said.

But Gorbachev told Parliament that the inciters of violence in Tajikistan would be punished.

"We must apply the law in all its force to those who under the banner and slogans of national rebirth are drawing nationalities into the struggle for their ambitions and their own narrow egotistical aims," Gorbachev said.

Gorbachev lashed out at rioters and called for harsh action against them, saying the "country's destiny and the safety of our citizens is at stake."

Officials denied reports that 37 people had been killed. The official Soviet news agency said that 12 people had died. An official in the republic said 11 were dead.

About 5,000 young people on the rampage in Dushanbe and its environs were attacking people at random, Tass said.

"Pogroms, robberies, arson of public buildings and business establishments has spread to the farthest residential quarters of the city," Tass said.

Greece denies Turkish charges of oppression

ATHENS, Feb 14, (AP): Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras has accused neighbouring Turkey of fabricating accusations that the Muslim minority in Greece is oppressed.

"It is said that Ankara persists in the policy of fabricating nationalist issues with the aim of disorienting public opinion in Turkey," he said in a letter sent to the secretaries general of the United Nations, Nato and the heads of 35 countries.

The letter, which was made available to the press, was a reply to one sent by Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz to the same recipients on Jan 31. It also was the latest salvo in a diplomatic war between the two Nato allies since Greek Christians and Muslims clashed in the northeastern Greek town of Komotini on Jan 29.

Police reported that 17 Christians and four Muslims were slightly injured when Christians attacked a crowd of Muslims protesting the jailing of two prominent Turkish-speaking activists. Christians then went on the rampage, smashing the windows of stores owned by Muslims.

Gorbachev put the thing off in order to have the possibility to think things over," Estonian Deputy Marju Lauristin told reporters. "He wanted to find some way round, because he was not sure if he could win."

The proposal to vest wide executive powers in the presidency was made by the ruling communists last week as part of a package of proposals which also included giving up the party's formal monopoly on power.

However, it must be formally approved by the Congress—the supreme legislative body elected last March in the country's first competitive elections in over 70 years.

Gorbachev told the Supreme Soviet, the Parliament elected by Congress of People's Deputies, earlier in the day that he wanted the body to be convened this month. He said strong central powers were needed to resolve mounting problems.

"Today is the time to decide all these questions," Gorbachev told deputies. "More time could finish off the country."

His comments were given extra weight by reports of unrest in the central Asian Republic of Tajikistan, where at least 37 people have been killed and 80 injured in three days of rioting.

Radical deputies both from the Russian Federation, the largest Soviet republic, and from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, are unhappy about what they see as plans by Gorbachev to push forward constitutional changes without adequate discussion.

"Nothing is ready, we have not yet seen the precise proposals on what kind of presidency we will have," said Yuri Boyars, a Latvian parliamentarian and legal expert.

"There are lots of different models of president, from Pinochet (of Chile), to the American, Italian or French kind, even though I suspect the presidency being proposed is one with very strong executive powers."

Boyars and other deputies said in conversation with reporters after the session that such extra powers were dangerous, warning that Gorbachev—and his eventual successor—would have virtually dictatorial powers.

"The Russians, in particular, tend to want to strengthen central power because they traditionally think in those terms," Boyars added.

"There are those who almost talk about wanting a new star."

A legislative opposition group, the Inter-regional Deputies group, circulated a petition in the corridors outside the session calling for the president to be directly elected by the people.

The petition, read on the floor of the Supreme Soviet by Deputy Sergei Stankevich, also called for the selection of a new presidency to be delayed until new legislatures in the 15 Soviet republics, to be elected this spring, consider the powers of the presidency.

Gorbachev adviser Georgy Shakhnazarov told reporters during a break in today's session that officials want the Congress to elect the new president within a month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe

Environmentalists warn of cancer: A wide range of supermarket foods in the UK including brown bread and tomato ketchup are contaminated with "alarming levels" of a chemical linked to cancer, according to a warning yesterday.

Environmentalists issued the warning after commissioning their own tests on the products from a firm of consultants.

They claimed the tests revealed residues of ethylene thiourea (ETU) in many processed foods.

The chemical, derived from a commonly used class of fungicides, has been linked with lung, liver and thyroid cancer, as well as birth defects.

Particularly high levels were found in brown bread and tomato ketchup, according to Friends of the Earth environmentalist group.

It called for immediate suspension of the use of fungicides on food crops and extensive studies to assess the risk to consumers.

The British minister responsible for food, David Maclean, said yesterday that his experts will look into the campaigners' evidence. (Kuna)

Sweden loses vote: Sweden's government lost the vote in a key parliament committee yesterday on its proposed two-year wage and price freeze.

Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson has said he would quit unless the parliament on Tuesday supports a package to halt spiralling wage demands and cut off a series of crippling strikes.

The package was defeated in a 9-8 preliminary vote in the labour committee, said committee official Susanne Gaje. The vote pointed to almost certain defeat in Thursday's vote.

Carlsson's resignation could give the three centre-right opposition parties a chance to form a ruling coalition or it could mean an election call 18 months ahead of schedule.

The last time Sweden held an unscheduled election was in 1958, before a constitutional change which united the two houses of parliament into one. (AP)

Spanish prisoners seize hostages: Prisoners armed with scalpels and makeshift knives mutilated and seized nine hostages in a high-security jail near Madrid yesterday.

Spanish state radio said the mutineers were pressing for the release of a co-detainee from a punishment cell.

A justice Ministry spokesman confirmed 17 prisoners had taken over a wing reserved for high-risk detainees at the Alcala Meco prison 30 km (20 miles) west of Madrid.

He said they were holding six prison staff, two doctors and a male nurse.

Prison sources said the mutineers seized the medical staff during a routine check at the infirmary.

The radio said three Basque ETA guerrillas were among the prisoners. The ministry spokesman said three ETA detainees were in the wing but could not confirm they were involved. (Reuters)

Irish ship captain acquitted: An appeal court acquitted an Irish sea captain yesterday of importing arms illegally into Italy and quashed his four-year jail sentence.

John Scallan was arrested in October 1987 after Italian customs officers found 350 West German-made machine-guns and spare parts in a container on his Qatar-registered freighter Fathulair in the port of Savona.

He was cleared after lawyers argued that the arms, loaded in Liverpool and bound for Dubai, were not due to be unloaded in Italy and Scallan did not need a permit from Italian authorities.

Scallan has been free on bail pending his appeal. (Reuters)

Chianti chairman dies: Francesco Folonari, the innovative general manager of one of Italy's most prestigious Chianti wineries, has died at the age of 60. Italian media reported yesterday.

Folonari died on Monday of complications following earlier open-heart surgery, according to the reports.

Born in 1929, Folonari entered the family winery Chianti Rufina SPA following the death of his father in 1951. He served as general manager of the world-known winery since 1966. (AP)

Battle for Mavinga: The bitter battle for the strategic Mavinga airstrip and a war of words between the Angolan government and UNITA rebels continued Tuesday.

In a statement released in Lisbon, the rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola claimed 12 government soldiers were killed Monday as they attacked rebel positions in Mavinga, 1,100 km (700 miles) southeast of Luanda, the Angolan capital.

The statement also claimed Soviet-built MiG jets bombed two rebel trenches and nearby villages with toxic bombs, killing eight civilians and an unspecified number of guerrillas. (AP)

More than 40 killed in attack: Right-wing Renamo rebels ambushed a train packed with Mozambican miners yesterday, crippling it by a remote-controlled mine and opening fire on passengers, killing 45 people and wounding 19, the state-run news agency Aina reported.

The attack occurred shortly after the train left Ressano Garcia on the South African border, mainly carrying the workers from their jobs in South Africa back to Mozambique.

The area of the attack was 44 miles (73 km) northwest of Maputo and 6 miles (10 km) from the South African border. (UPI)



Winning hearts

Mstislav Rostropovich returned triumphantly on Tuesday to the concert stage in the homeland that drove him away 16 years ago for refusing to renounce his principles.

Among the music-lovers who flocked to hear him conduct Washington's National Symphony Orchestra was Raisa Gorbachev, wife of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

For an encore, Rostropovich chose "Stars and Stripes Forever," the rousing march that is a tribute to the US flag. He said afterward that the show of pride in his adopted country came "from my heart."

Another selection was Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, which was the last piece Rostropovich had conducted in the Soviet Union, in 1974.

Raisa (left) and Queen Sofia (right) of Spain applaud Rostropovich during the concert. (Reuters wirephoto)



Unity knot

Barbara Hartung of East Berlin and Oliver Metalla of West Berlin, both 21, say cheers to the applauding crowd after they got married in front of the Brandenburg gate yesterday, the Valentine's Day. Knowing each other now for three years they tried in vain for two years to get a permission to marry but finally succeeded when E. Germany opened its border. (Reuters wirephoto)

Drug war heats up in Golden Triangle: A war between rival bandit armies over drug-trafficking routes out of Burma's Golden Triangle escalated yesterday as guerrillas surrounded a camp belonging to opium warlord Khun Sa.

From this Thai border checkpoint, the third of mortar rounds could be heard as Khun Sa troops moved out of their stronghold on the other side of the border to reinforce the besieged village of Doi Lak Taeng.

This border police said there had been heavy fighting between Khun Sa's Muang Tai Army and a splinter faction of the defunct Burma Communist Party (BCP) over a strategic narcotic route from the Golden Triangle. (Reuters)

Java volcano quiets down: The Mount Kelud volcano in Java subsided Tuesday after two eruptions in four days that left 22 people dead, officials said.

The 5,769-foot (1,758 m) Mount Kelud volcano in East Java, 390 miles (630 km) east of Jakarta, erupted shortly before noon Saturday, spewing lava with a "thunder-like roar" heard 6 miles (9 km) away.

A second major eruption occurred Monday afternoon when Kelud belched tons of ash 23,000 feet (7,000 m) into the sky, the newspaper Suara Pamban reported.

Officials said that as of Tuesday afternoon, 22 people had been reported killed by the volcano, 64 injured and three missing. (UPI)

10 dead in rebel fighting: A battle at a military airstrip left 10 separatist rebels and soldiers dead on the island of Bougainville, a government spokesman said yesterday.

The attack by rebels on the Buka airstrip Tuesday was the latest in a series of confrontations in a 14-month uprising being waged by militant landowners. The rebels have already forced the closure of one of the world's biggest copper mines in their campaign to receive monetary compensation for mining damage.

The Papua New Guinean government estimates more than 85 persons have been killed in the fighting between the traditional landholders of the outlying island 500 miles (800 km) east of Port Moresby, the capital. (AP)

Separatists destabilising China: minister

BEIJING, Feb 14, (Reuters): China's minister in charge of the country's 90 million minority people has expressed alarm over recent ethnic unrest across the border in the Soviet Union and the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.

Stability and unity among China's own ethnic groups had been affected by these recent developments, Ismail Amat was quoted as saying by the official China Daily today.

The minister warned a national conference on minorities yesterday that "separatists and forces hostile to the Communist Party here and abroad," were damaging China's stability.

"They always stir up turmoil and conduct separatist activities under ethnic or religious disguise," he said in a tough speech apparently

hearing a clampdown on China's minorities, who for centuries have staged rebellions against the Han Chinese minority.

Amat also singled out last year's awarding of the Nobel peace prize to Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, as a destabilising factor.

An official source said large numbers of extra troops had been sent to Tibet's regional capital of Lhasa to back up units enforcing martial law which was declared in the city last March after fierce anti-Chinese demonstrations and rioting.

Troops have also been dispatched in recent months to remote areas of Sichuan province where there are rumblings of unrest among Tibetans living there.

Last week police in central Qinghai province

maintained tight security at the annual "Butter festival," which drew tens of thousands of Tibetans to the famous Kumbum monastery.

Diplomats and academics said Beijing was also alarmed by a resurgence of Islam among minorities in the northwest frontier region of Xinjiang—just across the border from Soviet Tajikistan where unrest forced officials to declare a state of emergency on Monday.

Four times the size of France, Xinjiang has a population of some 15 million people, of whom about half are Islamic. Only about 30,000 are Tajiks.

Last May thousands of Muslims took to the streets in Xinjiang's capital Urumqi and in Qinghai's Xining to protest against a Chinese book they said insulted their religion.

"The policy towards the minorities now is 'relax to the outside, tighten within,'" the official source said.

The new policy meant tighter control over religion, stepped up family planning, more restrictions on travel and more political education. Economic reforms would continue however.

A separate source close to the government said the party had recently appointed a new official to head its united front work department.

Yan Mingfu, a reformist victim of a hardline purge after the army crushed pro-democracy demonstrations last June, was replaced by his former deputy Wu Liangyan, a 53-year-old engineer who belongs to the Hui ethnic group.

Laws to facilitate economic proposals soon

Work teams formed for follow-up

By Khaled Ahmad
A NUMBER of legislations and laws are expected to be issued within the coming few weeks to facilitate the implementation of the economic recommendations aimed at boosting the local economy, a senior economic

officials has said. The legislations will be aimed at enabling the various government ministries and establishments to carry out the economic recommendations relating to their activities, the source added.

The source stressed that the

implementation of the economic recommendations issued by the government in December last year, is progressing in a satisfactory way. He expressed optimism over the complete implementation of the recommendations.

However, the source declined to specify the ongoing contacts between the follow-up committee headed by the Kuwait Central Bank Governor, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah and the concerned government ministries and establishments,

relating to carrying out the recommendations. A number of ministries and establishments formed work teams to follow up the economic recommendations and prepare a defined programme for its implementation.

Information management exhibition from Feb 18-22

THE Information Centre Co. (Infocentre) is organising Kuwait's 9th International Information Management and Office Equipment Exhibition, which is scheduled to be from Feb 18-22, 1990 in Kuwait.

The exhibition will have on display the state-of-the-art computers, communications and office equipment which is of growing interest among decision makers as evidenced in the increasing number of technical and management attendees at last year's Info'90. The total number of visitors then was estimated to be about 19,132 comprising of a cross-section of professionals.

Since its establishment, Infocentre has been organising this international information management and office equipment exhibition for nine successive years.

Infocentre services provided consultation, advice or physical management in respect of exhibitions, market research, feasibility studies, commodity selection and attendance requirements.

The Ministry of Communications is participating in Info 1990 to present its services to the public and subscribers its updated services. The ministry in co-operation with Italcable Company from Italy will show new technology in the field of international networks by using the ministry's services which will help the public to assess a wide data base all over the world such as: telecommunications, engineering, electronics, mathematics, medical, history, arts geography, law agriculture etc by using the Kupac system.

Switching

The ministry is in the process of starting the packet switching data network system (Kupac) this year and will transfer the leased lines and the computers to Kupac system.

Also, by its co-operation with Italcable Company, Italy, Nawasy Company, it will offer the Kupac project to the public in Info 1990 exhibition to give a complete presentation about the benefits of the services which the Kupac project will make available.

The subscriber could ask for the bills which show the amount due for services they use and they could pay it by the direct line payment system. Also a new item at the ministry's stand at Info 1990 exhibition is the Magic Card Public Pay Phone which the public can use to make international calls to all countries in the world with the direct dialling services.

Hussein in S. Arabia

AMMAN, Feb 14, (Reuters): King Hussein left for Saudi Arabia yesterday for talks with King Fahd which diplomats said would cover Middle Eastern problems and Saudi financial aid to Jordan.

Saudi Arabia gave Jordan at least \$200 million last year following a visit by King Hussein in early August and was the main backer of a \$300-million-dollar currency support fund for Amman held at the Arab Monetary Fund in Abu Dhabi.

The exact size of the Saudi deposit has been kept secret. Officials say Kuwait has also contributed but have not said whether other Gulf states have deposited their agreed shares.

Riyadh granted Jordan nearly \$360 million a year in the decade following the 1978 Arab summit in Baghdad which allotted funds to Arab states bordering Israel.

Jordan, struggling with an eight billion dollar debt, has budgeted for Arab aid totalling \$360 million this year, compared with the \$516 million dollars it received in 1989.

Arab money flowed in last year after April riots sparked by IMF-agreed price rises raised doubts about Jordan's stability. The official Petra news agency said Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Foreign Minister Marwan Qassem, Royal Court chief Shari Zeid Bin Shaker and political adviser Adnan Abu Odeh accompanied the king.



Jarallah receives Indian envoy

Ambassador of India to Kuwait Arun Kumar Budhira (centre) met the Editor-in-chief of Arab Times and Al Seyassah, Ahmed Al Jarallah on Tuesday.

They discussed matters of mutual concern. First secretary at the Indian Embassy Abdul Khaliq (left) was also present at the meeting.

Symposium on allergies

Chemicals, pollution, pollen main irritants

DURING a symposium on allergic diseases, Dr Khadeer Abbas, an advisor on allergies at Kuwait Allergy Centre, said that vegetation, environmental pollution and use of different make-up materials were responsible for the spread of allergic diseases.

He said that among the reasons responsible for the spread of these diseases were the use of pesticides and insecticides in packaged or frozen foods and continual temperature fluctuations that were accompanied with climatic phenomena, such as sandstorms and rise in humidity.

Khadeer said that allergies started to emerge and spread in Kuwait because it is the area with the largest vegetation and the greatest number of trees in Kuwait. He added that the speedy spread of these diseases called for the formation of a committee of specialists including

doctors of internal medicine, dermatologists, and ENT specialists.

In 1965 the recommendations adopted by the committee provided for the establishment of a special unit for the treatment of allergic diseases annexed to the Sabah Hospital.

Spread

The mounting pressure on the unit over the years induced the building of the Kuwait Centre for Allergic Diseases in 1984. Khadeer pointed out that the beginning of March each year up to the end of August up to the end of October were the seasons for the emergency and spread of allergic diseases in the country.

He said that the total number of patients with allergic diseases calling on the centre over the year 1989 reached 59,237, of whom 47.5 had chest allergy, 40.5 per

cent exhibited throat, ear and nose allergy while only 12 per cent had skin allergies.

Khadeer said that the development of allergies was a defensive biological process in the human body against strange bodies. He added that the effects were harmful on the body tissues and would therefore lead to the development of symptoms of allergy.

The development of antibodies against strange, microscopic objects entering the body was a defence mechanism by the body's immunity system to fend off disease-causing agents. Khadeer said. He further pointed out that the word 'allergy' terminologically meant the increase in body interaction against normally harmless agents.

He said that the strange intruders into the human body included bacteria, viruses, chemicals, dust, pollen and certain types of food.

From the courts

Man acquitted of raping housemaid

THE Criminal Court released a father of two kids from the charge of raping his newly employed housemaid.

The court was informed by the maid that she was at the maids' office after her first employer left the country. The defendant then came to the office and employed the maid. The maid stated that during the second night from her arrival at her new employer's house, the father forced his way inside her room and raped her. She added that the defendant threatened to harm her if she informed anybody about the incident.

The court based its decision on the statements of defendants wife and children who said that they were all outside the house until 2.00 am on the night of the incident. Further medical tests conducted on the maid proved that the maid had lost her virginity more than ten days prior to the alleged rape which supported the statement made by the defendants family.

TWO MEN, identified as Fahd K. Saudi national and Hadi W. stateless have been arrested by detectives of Ahmadi Governorate for stealing gold. The Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Interior said.

The accused allegedly stole gold from the residence of Tuama A. situated at Sulabiya area. The victim is the kin of the first defendant. Investigations revealed that the accused sold a quantity of gold to one shop estimated at KD1,887, another for KD543 and a third at KD1,885.

Investigations are still under progress, though no further details have been revealed.

ONE MAN and a woman died and eleven others were injured in the course of 20 traffic accidents yesterday in the country, according to the Interior Ministry's Public Relations Department.

It added that there were six traffic accidents in the Capital, two in Hawalli, seven in Ahmadi and five in Jahra.

THREE men identified as Mubarak A., Saudi national, Thamer M. Iraqi and Saeed M. Egyptian have been apprehended for trading in drugs and alcohol.

Sources of the detective branch of Hawalli Governorate said that the first defendant was arrested with 108 grammes of hashish in his possession. On interrogation, he implicated the other two accused who were found in possession of a further 100 grammes of hashish.

The contraband and the accused have been remanded to police custody for further investigation.

DETECTIVES of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) have reportedly apprehended a suspect identified as Yunus G. stateless for trading in heroin.

The suspect has been remanded to custody pending investigations.

Traffic week

Focus on safety for children

THE Arab Gulf Traffic Week entitled "Traffic Safety for Children" will be organised in Kuwait from March 3-9, 1990 and will focus on cultural programmes to enlighten citizens about traffic accidents, according to Abdul Hameed Hajji Abdul Raheem, director-general of the General Traffic Administration.

He said that the GCC states have achieved a great deal of co-operation in traffic regulations and related issues and have also carried out comprehensive campaigns to urge drivers and public to abide by the traffic regulations and systems with the prime objective of reducing the level of road accidents and casualties.

Citing statistics, Hajji said that 60 per cent of injuries to drivers and passengers in cars is attributed to the non-use of safety belts at the time of accidents. He disclosed that two Gulf states have already begun obliging drivers to fasten safety belts as of this year.

The official said that the present high-level of road accidents cannot be justified after the execution of extensive programmes and plans to enlighten the public about traffic laws and the building of modern roads and flyovers.

Meanwhile, he said that the new draft law of traffic stipulates enhanced penalties to reduce the increasing number of road accidents. He praised the decision taken by the minister of commerce that prohibits the import of second hand cars that are more than three years old. The decision will reduce the number of offices that trade in second hand cars and reduce traffic congestion in general, he said.

Calltaxi

Hajji added that the GTA has given a period of two months to owners of call taxi offices to legalise their positions and have been called upon to sponsor residence permits of drivers working with them according to licences given by the GTA. They are also called upon to use new cars, besides installing metres indicating service charges. He disclosed that he will be holding meetings with owners of these offices to discuss these and other related issues.

The official denied that there is any intention to permit violators of traffic rules to pay their fines at banks. However, he said that the GTA will open a branch at the Ministries Complex as of the beginning of March to renew driving licences and car books of public servants working at the complex.

He said that the GTA will install cabins in different places to receive and collect the fines of drivers who have their cars wheel-locked. He disclosed that the GTA will be installing computers to speed up the process of collecting fines at the Capital Traffic Department.

He added that many drivers find it expensive to pay 100 fils to park their car for one hour, though in some foreign countries parking costs about \$6 per hour.

On the issue of technical inspection of cars, the official said that the Ministry of Interior is waiting to set up the Higher Traffic Council to study several propositions in this respect.

He said the GCC states are going to unify the form and size as well as details of the driving licence and added that there is a Kuwaiti study to extend validity of this licence to ten years for all drivers.

Humour

'The Weekend'

Interview on KTV

By Fathima Ahmed

Arab Times staff

DIRECTOR Abu Al Shawl was standing in my cramped room. My colleagues, JP, Nirmala, Lima, Diana, Theresa, Manal, Sam, Yawar, Razak, Shaida and Zaka were turning green and greener; gaping, perhaps, in amazement at my good fortune. My boss was visibly upset: no one was working. Everyone wanted to meet star KTV reporter Bibi Badami, who was making me "a star". Lima posed with BB; Yawar drooled, Razak ogled, Zaka fainted, Sam went mad. Nirmala swooned and JP wanted her autograph!

The makeup man was skillfully applying tons of lipstick and kilos of powder on my face, lips grew redder and redder, and eyes grew darker than the night.

"Seductive" gushed Lima. I tore my hair out. I fidgeted with my shawl, twiddled my thumbs and waited impatiently.

"Lights!" screamed director Abu Al Shawl. I picked up bits and pieces of paper lying on my cluttered desk.

"Camera!" he shouted. I shivered in the heat, and wiped off heads of perspiration from my forehead.

"You are ruining your make-up," scolded Theresa. Friend Nirmala encouraged: "Cheer up! Smile! Say cheese! I saw flakes of cheese flying around the room."

I looked monstrous: eyes popping, teeth jutting and hair sticking out.

"You are on KTV — on The Weekend Show, you know The Weekend Show?" insisted sweet JP. Goose-pimples BB had that affect on me.

"Do one thing: calm down..." said Sam sympathetically.

"Action!" shouted the director. And the cameras rolled... BB is in front of me; the camera focussed on my monstrous face, the room was illuminated with a million bulbs. Everything glowed, my eyes, her eyes, their eyes and (probably your eyes). BB introduced me...

BB: "As you can see, I am in the editorial section of BAWLCO, one of the most popular publishing houses in the country. They print paper bags, tissue sheets, bill books, bulk markers, paper rags and paper ropes and etc. etc. are made by this illustrious, prestigious publishing house. BAWLCO needs no introduction."

Ms FA belongs to this prestigious, hardly working organisation. Now, Ms FA, could you tell us what BAWLCO stands for?

FA: "Err... Err... Baaa... baww... I Sob! Sob!"

BB: "Could you please tell us about your job?"

FA: "Err... err... that is a good question. My, my main job is to talk to the phone; climb the walls, crawl and write dull stories — once a decade. When the boss' looking, I eat, eat, eat and drink, drink, drink, when he's not I snore, snore, snore." (Gosh! Vow! I saw her [and viewers] turn all shades of green).

BB: "Now, dear viewers, we'll take you on a tour of Ms FA's cubicle (4x6 ft)." (FA engulfed from chair).

FA: (petrified) Oh... yes... let's do that! (pushing and shoving colleagues out of the way).

BB: "Ah! What a wonderful machine! It looks like a word processor."

FA: "How did you know? (surprised): a marvel of technology; everything at my fingertips: plonk it appears; plonk, it disappears!"

[BB is impressed — her eyes shine like emeralds... she does the tango in my cubicle, shaking back and forth with the mike that is removed from under Ms FA's nose. Calm down, calm down...]

BB: "Really? how wonderful! You must be genius..."

FA: "Oooooo..." (modestly); our management holds extensive training courses; three and a quarter minutes per year!"

BB: "Good! Great experience! Now, can you tell us what you are doing?"

FA: "I'm working on U.S.E.L.E.S.S. — the story of the decade about how a cat chases a mouse."

BB: "Sound's interesting. Readers will look forward to reading it. So, can you tell me what you'll do with U.S.E.L.E.S.S. story after completing it on the wordprocessor..."

FA: "I, err... I..."

BB: "Print it! (Helpfully!). Can you tell our viewers how?"

FA: "Easy, easy. This is the most advanced machine from the most advanced country in the world. It is very (stuttering) easy to use, use... Please come closer, closer (cameras come nearer) You see the flower... there, there (pointing, getting out of BB's way) press it — Like this: tat-tat tattatt... Ooh, la la!"

BB: "Then, what do you do?"

FA: "The number the pages!"

BB: "How?"

FA: "1...2...3...4...5... (Tough!)"

BB: "If I take a page away, would you miss it?"

FA: "Of course. Sam'll certainly find out sooner or later and inform the financial department."

BB: "Why?"

FA: "Well, you see, to deduct 0.0001 per cent from my daily wages."

BB: "Now, let's go back to your story. After numbering what happens?"

FA: "Well (thinking), I... (sighs) I miss my life!"

BB: "Sam doesn't use the U.S.E.L.E.S.S. machine, does he?"

FA: "Great effort..."

BB: "Tough job!"

FA: "Bang, bang, bang. My head was spinning. Probably, I'd drunk too much of the sparkling, Kuwaiti champagne. Someone was knocking at the front door. Noise rattled my brain. I twisted and turned... and opened my eyes: I was alone in my room the credits of KTV's The Weekend magazine show were rolling... prepared by... reporters... bang, bang, bang... someone was at the door... A dream... or a nightmare? I switched off the Idiot Box and walked to the front door."



Computer training course

The Deputy Director-General at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training Humoud Al Mudhar opened yesterday a new training course on the theme of "The preparation and upgrading of the Modern Manager," a press release issued by the authority reported.

It added that the training course which will last up to Feb 20 and aims at giving trainees the necessary opportunities to acquire the necessary skills in the administrative fields.

On the other hand, the official had inaugurated another two training courses on the computer programming and Computer DBASE III system which will last up to March 20.

Japan donates \$7m for UNRWA projects

JAPAN and UNRWA recently agreed on US\$3 million projects to be implemented out of Japan's US\$7 million donation to UNRWA from its supplemental budget for fiscal year 1988.

These measures consist of six schemes especially aiming at establishing medical transportation and rehabilitation centres for injured Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and improving educational facilities there.

Measures include: Emergency health measures with the setting up of physiotherapy units (US\$470,000), 9 physiotherapy units with staff and fixtures (4 in the West Bank and 5 in Gaza Strip).

Extending the emergency capacity of Al Ahli Hospital (US\$100,000). Setting up of orthopaedic operation units, etc. at the Al Ahli Hospital.

Improving the emergency capacity of health centres (US\$387,715). Providing medicines and medical appliances to UNRWA's health centres in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Provision of ambulances (US\$530,000). 14 ambulances (8 in the West Bank and 6 in Gaza Strip) for the use of UNRWA's health centres.

Emergency education measures are also included with a scholarship programme (US\$1,000,000). 5-year scholarships for 80-100 Palestinian refugee students seeking to complete their study abroad, and construction of pre-fabricated classrooms (US\$100,000). 4 pre-fabricated classrooms in Gaza Strip (1 classroom for 100 students) to cope with the increase in the number of students.

Manuscripts exhibition

KUWAIT, Feb 14, (Kuwait): Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al Ahmed Al Sabah yesterday inaugurated an exhibition on Kuwaiti and Arab manuscripts organised by renowned Kuwaiti Poet and Historian Khaled Saoud Al Zaid.

Following the opening ceremony Sheikh Jaber described the exhibits as a treasure of thoughts and information in different walks of life.

In a statement to Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber added that such a wonderful effort by Khaled "gives us satisfaction that the heritage of Kuwait and the entire Arab world is well maintained."

The minister expressed his pleasure that the opening of the exhibition coincided with the country's celebrations of the 29th National Day which falls on February 25.

The week-long exhibition is taking place at the Kuwaiti Writers Association. Arab manuscripts, rare books on Kuwait's political and social history and copies of old Kuwaiti magazines and newspapers dating back to 1938 were displayed in the exhibition.

Present at the opening ceremony were State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Minister Abdul Aziz Al Rashid, Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Farouq Al Omar, Director of the Highness the Amir's Office Ibrahim Al Shatti, Information undersecretary and his assistants and a large crowd of art-lovers.

State-of-the-art equipment to improve communication services

THE Ministry of Communications during the 1990-1995 five-year-plan aims at enhancing telephone services, by the introduction of new communication networks.

Speaking at Kuwait News Agency, Engineer Salman Al Roumi, assistant undersecretary for technical affairs at the Ministry of Communications said that communication services have become more comprehensive. In addition to the normal service of local and international telephone services, these networks now include services such as a fax, magnetic cards for emergency calls on express roads, also information transformation and conference calls.

Existing communications networks now include cable networks and microwave networks.

The official said that during the current five-year-plan, the government is directing serious attention to the creation of a technical and administrative manpower capable of operating and maintaining different utilities. To develop this capability, the ministry has implemented several specialised training programmes for its employees and is offering every encouragement to Kuwaitis to join the ministry.

Having for sometime monitored the operations of advanced and developing countries in this field of communications, the official said

that the government is studying the feasibility of transferring partially or totally the services to a non-government sector. This is but one of the many options the government is viewing, the official added.

Roumi stated that development programmes and policies differ from one country to another according to the economical and social conditions. In Kuwait, international commerce represents an important element and therefore, providing communication facilities is vital during the forthcoming stages. To achieve such communication links with neighbouring countries and other international states, the ministry is employing state-of-the-art techniques and equipment, Roumi added.

Handwritten signature: J. Al-Sabir

Pasteur Institute expects Aids vaccine in 5-7 years

Top priority to educational programmes in 'Kuwait Declaration'

By Diana Abou Halder
Arab Times staff

THE WORLD can expect a vaccine for Aids in five to seven years, said Deputy Director of Pasteur Institute, Dr. Marc Girard who attended the Kuwait Third International Conference on Aids that closed yesterday.

"Scientific research in this area is just coming out of a dark tunnel. We are beginning to see the first light," he said.

The Paris-based institute that has been undertaking research to find an effective vaccine for Aids since 1982 has succeeded in developing a vaccine that provided chimpanzees with immunity against the virus. But it will be at least a year before it could be tried on humans, according

to Girard.

He said the virus has a remarkable capacity to escape the most immune defences. "Moreover, there are 20 known types of virus, and there could be as many more. That makes finding an effective vaccine all the more difficult."

Declaration

Other difficulties facing researchers are questions about the virus that remain unanswered such as why classical types of vaccines do not work. They also have to depend on genetic engineered vaccines, a relatively new field with very little past experience to depend on.

Girard also said that chimpanzees, the only test animals that could be used for such research are rare and expensive. "We have to rent a

Chimpanzee for \$40,000 a year," he said.

Meanwhile, participants at the Conference on Aids emphasised the need in national Aids programmes to avoid discrimination against those infected with the virus because such form of stigmatisation undermines public health.

In the 'Kuwait Declaration on Aids Prevention', which was announced yesterday at the end of the three-day conference, participants also urged such national programmes to provide necessary support for families affected with the virus by mobilising health and social services to respond to emergency needs including those of abandoned and orphaned children.

The declaration gave top priority to both local and international levels to educational programmes especially for young people. "We

strongly urge that programmes for information and education on Aids be integrated into the school curriculum as appropriate for age and sex."

Similar programmes for out-of-school children and the workplace were also recommended.

"We commend the World Health Organisation's efforts through the Global Programme on Aids, to provide strong, effective and co-ordinated leadership in global activities for the prevention and control of Aids and for its active collaboration with member states in support of national Aids programmes," participants said.

They also recognised the crucial role of women in the Global Aids Strategy and encouraged all nations and peoples to participate in World Aids Day on Dec 1, 1990 with the theme of "Aids and Women."

Parliament long way off

(Continued from Page 1)

Sheikh Saad pointed out in the interview that previous errors should not be repeated.

The Premier added that the dialogue, which already got under way in recent weeks, is hoped to produce a "formula that would spare the country from any 'shakoups'."

Refusing to agree that the dialogue would be better framed by a specific time frame, Sheikh Saad said, "I have prepared myself for a long dialogue... and intend to meet all deputies and speakers of the previous assemblies."

The Crown Prince added that he would also meet a wide range of representatives and take ample time "to find out the position of the people and the government and to get a clear picture of what the majority wants."

Asked if it was possible for the government and the people to agree on a "national charter" away from the constitution, Sheikh Saad declined to label the dialogue process and said what was needed was a format that would "preserve co-operation and dialogue between the government and the people."

He strongly suggested that the whole process should be approached in the time-honoured Kuwaiti traditions and social customs.

Hamis orders attacks on settlers

(Continued from Page 1)

unmarked plans to set up greater Israel," Hamis said.

The Islamic group also praised the attack on Israeli tourists in Egypt last week. "The timing of the bus attack came with the increase in Russian immigration to Palestine, and through such means Jews can be stopped from coming to Palestine."

Soviet ambassadors to Kuwait today urged the United States not to veto an expected UN Security Council resolution calling on Israel to refrain from settling Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories.

Addressing a press conference, Ambassador Zverev, said the Soviet Union does not want a showdown in the Security Council but rather a resolution to stop the resettlement of Jews in occupied Arab lands.

He also lashed out at Israel for violating the Geneva accord which prohibits the settlement of any people other than the Palestinians.

According to the ambassador, the proposed Security Council resolution will include a recommendation to the Geneva accord and an appeal to the Israeli leadership to stop the resettlement.

The ambassador defended his country's decision to allow the mass exodus of Soviet Jews but said, "I understand the concerns of the Arab countries."

"At the same time," said the ambassador, "I want to emphasise that the campaign is based on inaccurate information."

The ambassador said that "we informed the Americans of our intention to raise the issue in the Security Council."

"During our talks with both the Americans and the Israelis we informed them that the issue is dangerous," said Zverev, "and is very important to the Middle East peace process."

In reply to a question, the ambassador denied that the Soviet Union has rejected a visit by an Arab delegation to discuss the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Premier receives

KUWAIT, Feb 14, (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah today received a number of scientists and doctors participating at Kuwait's Third International Aids Conference.

The meeting was attended by Planning and Acting Health Minister Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Awadi.

Jaber receives

KUWAIT, Feb 14, (Kuna): Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah today received two information delegations representing several papers, news agencies and television stations in the Soviet Union and Japan on the occasion of their visit to the country to cover the 29th anniversary of Kuwait National Day.



Pakistani Law Minister Iftikhar Hussain Jeelani with HH the Amir yesterday.

No armed conflict with India: Jeelani

Bhutto message handed to Amir

KUWAIT, Feb 14, (Kuna): Pakistani Justice Minister Iftikhar Hussain Jeelani conferred here today with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saud Mohammed Al Osaibi.

An authoritative source at the ministry told Kuna that the discussions tackled bilateral relations and focused on the situation in Kashmir.

The Pakistani minister, who arrived here midday yesterday, is a special envoy of Pakistani Prime Minister Mr. Benazir Bhutto with a message to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed which he handed earlier today to HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

Jeelani, in a statement to Kuna, said that HH had "very graciously listened to what I had to say regarding Pakistan's position on the Kashmir issue."

He pointed to the great appreciation of the Pakistani people and government of the Amir in view of his status among world leaders in his capacity as one of the illustrious leaders of the Islamic nation, the ruler of Kuwait and head of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

Jeelani said that Sheikh Saad appreciated Pakistan's step in expressing their point of view of

the Kashmir issue in Kuwait and added that HH had expressed concern.

The minister said that Pakistan's main target was to listen to guidance and advice from HH the Amir and the Kuwaiti leadership especially when Kuwait had amicable relations with the Pakistani people.

Jeelani expressed deep satisfaction over what he heard from HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Minister Osaibi and noted that he seized the opportunity and met with his Kuwaiti counterpart Dhari Abdullah Al Othman.

He described his visit as successful, expressing hope that a solution would be found to the Kashmir issue in a civilised manner and based on commitment to the UN charter.

Mediation

Asked whether he asked for Kuwaiti mediation between his country and India over the situation in Kashmir, Jeelani said that "we believe in wisdom of the Kuwaiti leadership... and we will be committed to whatever they see proper."

Asked whether the current situation in Kashmir would lead to another war between Pakistan and India, the minister denied such a possibility, adding that "the question is very simple and

does not call for an armed conflict."

Pakistanis and Kashmiri people's demand is very simple, namely honouring commitments and international pledges that were endorsed in 1948 and reiterated in 1972," he elaborated.

Jeelani emphatically denied Indian accusations that Pakistan had violated the 1948 agreement between the two countries over Kashmir, which stipulated settling any dispute over Kashmir through bilateral negotiations within the framework of UN charter.

He said that the "uprising" in Kashmir was not a dispute between India and Pakistan and added "we are trying to tell the world that the people of Kashmir are being killed at the hands of Indian troops" regardless of their religion.

The minister said that Pakistan and India should live up to previous commitments of holding a plebiscite in Kashmir under UN supervision.

The Jeelani-Osaibi meeting was attended by senior ministry officials along with the Pakistani ambassador to Kuwait.

The Pakistani minister is to meet tomorrow with the presiding judge of the Higher Court of Appeals.

Saudi killings Bangkok recruiter disappears

BANGKOK, Feb 14, (AP): A Saudi Arabian labour recruiter has disappeared in Bangkok less than two weeks after the murder of three Saudi diplomats in the city, police said today.

Police and officials have connected the murder of the three diplomats in central Bangkok on Feb 1 and the killing of another a year ago with the work of recruitment agencies sending Thais to work in the Middle East.

But neither case has been solved, causing a serious strain on otherwise good relations between Thailand and Saudi Arabia.

Police sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the disappearance of Mohammed Al Ruwaili was reported Monday but the reason for it was not known.

Ruwaili was in Thailand to recruit Thais to work in Saudi Arabia, they said.

Call

Prakamat Thangpaibun, owner of a Bangkok recruitment agency, the Sincere International Equipment Co., said Al Ruwaili had a contract with her company and had visited its office on Monday afternoon. He appeared to be in his mid-30s, she said.

Prakamat said that after Ruwaili had left, his wife called, wondering where her husband was.

Saudi Arabia stopped issuing visas to Thai workers after the killing of the three diplomats on Feb 1.

Saudi officials said they were very dissatisfied with police investigations and demanded that the killers be found as soon as possible.

Deputy Foreign Minister Prapas Limpabandhu returned to Bangkok yesterday after a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia to try to soothe relations between the two countries.

Pharmaceutical conference Pharmacist must monitor medicine misuse: expert

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

THE Third Kuwait Pharmaceutical Science Conference ended yesterday at which 24 research papers were presented.

Main topics focussed on clinical pharmacology, pharmaceutical technology, medical plants and the new trends in medical sciences.

Prof. Sobhi Said of Pharmaceutics—Cairo University in Egypt spoke about drug induced diseases.

He said that the detection of diseases induced by misuse of iatrogenic drugs is a very important effort by clinical pharmacists through patient monitoring. There is no drug known to be completely harmless. Thus, the improper use of specific drugs, could cause harmful effects. This is usually a result of poor drug selection and patient monitoring without pharmaceutical involvement. He added that among the iatrogenic effects of drugs reflected are induced peptic or duodenal ulcer, pseudomembranous colitis, ulcerative colitis, paralytic ileus, diarrhoea or constipation.

Said said that kidney impairment, hepatotoxicity, asthmatic syndromes, depression, headache and hypertension are other diseases induced by misuse of drugs. Also drugs may negatively affect male or female sexuality. Furthermore various skin diseases as acne, alopecia, lichen planus, photosensitisation may be induced by specific drugs.

Monitoring

He concluded that the clinical pharmacist must monitor the patient for the incidence of these diseases in order to stop this misuse and to protect the patient.

Dr. Najib M. Najib of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Jordan University of Science and Technology in his research paper

spoke about new trends in controlled drug delivery. He said that in recent years and due to the high cost of introducing new drug entities into the pharmaceutical market, drug companies have directed their attention towards improving the efficacy and reducing the toxicity of the already existing drugs. This objective has been achieved through the production of drug delivery system which are designed to deliver the drug to target cell, tissue or organ at a controlled and predictable rate.

He added that these systems are thought to offer a number of advantages over conventional dosage forms such as reduced frequency of dosing, improving patient compliance, reduced side effects and reduced fluctuation in drug levels.

Prof. Vladimir Glisin of the Department of Biochemistry, at the Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait University spoke about the biotechnology for life.

He said that three opportunities for modern biotechnology in the pharmaceutical industry — therapeutic, diagnostics and manufacture have pinpointed health care as the industry of great interest for the next decade or so. The industry itself needs modern biotechnology for innovation testing, evaluation and manufacture and as a research based industry it must have "high standards" of excellence.

He added that from the very onset "biotechnology revolution" is related in one way or the other to pharmaceutical uses. Glisin said that the recombinant DNA based modern biotechnology has already significantly contributed to the creation and manufacture of new therapeutics like human growth hormone, human insulin, tissue type plasminogen, tumour necrosis factor. In addition to the new

therapeutics it has developed probes for a number of genetic diseases including cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy, as well as simpler and more specific techniques for rapid diagnosis of viral, bacterial and parasitic infections.

He added that furthermore it has produced infection-free blood products such as factors VIII, factor IX and human albumin. Vaccines for common diseases whooping cough, measles, hepatitis are already being clinically tested.

Glisin concluded that the latest and the most recent breakthrough in the possibilities of replacing the manufacture of monoclonal antibodies by hybridoma cell-culture with a genetically engineered bacteria avoids the use of mammalian cells. After all, one can grow bacteria by the ton. Since monoclonal antibodies that catalyze chemical transformations have been generated, the major beneficiary of latest accomplishments will then undoubtedly be the pharmaceutical industry.

Border stations

THE committee set up by the Council of Ministers to follow up the security decisions taken by the cabinet, recently signed a contract to build three customs stations at Al Abdali, Nuwaiseb and Salmi border centres, a local daily reported.

The stations will contain full installations and buildings for loading, unloading and storing of imported goods. The stations are expected to be completed by mid 1992, and with the commencement of operations of these stations, foreign trucks will not be permitted entry to Kuwait, but will unload at these posts.

Sources said that the building of the three stations will cost about KD30 million and will be designed and supervised by the Refrigerating Industries Company and General Warehouses Company.



Minister of Commerce and Industry, Faisal Abdul Razzak Al Khaled yesterday inaugurated the 8th Modern House Exhibition at the International Fair grounds in Mishrif.

No more mini-buses for expats

EXPATRIATES are no more allowed to register mini-buses in their names according to a decision issued yesterday by the Interior Minister. The decision, which will become effective only after publication in the official gazette, Al Kuwait Al Youm, allows only three categories to register mini-buses used for passenger transportation.

According to the decision a new article will be added to the executive charter of the Traffic Law. The new article states that registration of private mini-buses used for passenger transportation is restricted to the following categories: Kuwaiti citizens with one 12-passenger bus only for those whose family members exceed 7, (and they have to submit documents proving that), ministries, government establishments and companies in which the government has shares in and, rental vehicle establishments and offices provided they submit documents proving they have a contract with a government or private side.

The decision also states that registration of private mini-buses used for passenger transportation is restricted to the following categories: Kuwaiti citizens with one 12-passenger bus only for those whose family members exceed 7, (and they have to submit documents proving that), ministries, government establishments and companies in which the government has shares in and, rental vehicle establishments and offices provided they submit documents proving they have a contract with a government or private side.

Condolence

The Gen. Secretary KICC (Kuwait Indian Cultural Congress) wishes to invite members of all Malayalee Associations in Kuwait, to attend a condolence meeting organised in honour of Mr. Thopil Ravi, who expired on 8th Feb. '90. Ravi was the General Secretary to the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) and a member of the legislative assembly, in India.



The 19 lucky winners of the final draw of Lipton "Gold Rush" promotion were given their prizes on 5th Feb at M/s. Mohammad Abdul Rahman Al Bahar in Shuwaikh.

Ibtihal Ahmed, the lucky winner of the first prize, received a half kilo of pure gold. Other winners received 2 prizes of 100 g gold, 6 prizes of 50g gold and 10 prizes of Noritake Tea Sets. Lipton distributed a total of 3 kilos of pure gold and 30 Noritake Tea Sets during this very successful 'Gold Rush' promotion.

Picture shows (L-R) C.M. Sahni, Area Sales Manager at Lipton Tea Company, father of Ibtihal Abdul Ahmed Al Kayid and Abdullah Abou Issa, Sales Manager at M/s. Abdul Rahman Al Bahar.



M. Boyer Felcy Josephine

Goan artistes arrive for Konkani drama

The New Goans Overseas Association are all set to present the hit Konkani drama 'Soursant Astana Diat' with the arrival yesterday evening of Menino de Bandar and other well known artistes from Goa. Menino de Bandar hardly needs any introduction to Goans in Kuwait, even though this is his first play being staged here. His most famous play 'Sucorina' based on a real life tragic story, went on to become the biggest hit and ran for a record breaking 200 weeks. No other Konkani play has had a run of so many shows.

The drama which will be held at the Indian Arts Circle (Funitees) at 4.00 pm on Friday the 16th of February, will feature everyone's favourite 'M. Boyer' who seems to be getting better as years go by. For many this will be their first opportunity to see the man everyone is talking about 'John de Parra'.

The cast of 'Soursant Astana Diat' also includes the powerful Rosario Dias and C. D'Silva besides evergreen Konkani stage artistes like Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Felcy, Josephine and Carlos.

KHALEEJIA VIDEO.
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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

INJUSTICE is relatively easy to bear; what stings is justice — Mencken, US editor (1880-1956).

Monopoly debate raging

Gorby secures Western flank

MOSCOW, (Reuters): President Mikhail Gorbachev is acting rapidly to stabilise relations with key Western powers the United States and West Germany as he steers his country towards major reforms that could mean a multi-party democracy.

Decades of prejudice against German reunification were put aside as Gorbachev calmly told Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the weekend that it was up to East and West Germany themselves to decide how and at what speed to merge.

And, at talks last week, Soviet and US negotiators sliced through much of the technical detail that is holding up strategic arms (Start) talks and, in the words of one US official, "broke the back" of a Start treaty.

Gorbachev dealt with Kohl and US Secretary of State James Baker as debate was still raging in the Soviet Union over a Central Committee meeting last week that decided to surrender the Communist Party's 70-year monopoly on power.

Turmoil

With the political ferment at home, which also includes ethnic turmoil in the Caucasus and growing separatist trends in the Baltic republics, the Soviet leader has evidently decided this is the time for strong, secure ties with the West.

Commentator Igor Belyayev, speaking on Moscow Radio, expressed a view often heard from Gorbachev supporters that all other problems facing the Soviet people today were outweighed by the outcome of Gorbachev's foreign policy.

"Standing in queues, worrying about shortages, about inter-ethnic problems, I think we should remember that the great achievement of perestroika (reform) has been to remove the threat of war which hung over all of us," he said.

Soviet officials are making clear that the Kremlin has decided some form of German reunification is a foregone conclusion and is already looking to the relationship it will have to forge with the new Germany.

Spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said that at his meeting with Kohl, Gorbachev "expressed the wish that when these changes take place, they will not destroy what has been achieved in our relations, but will enrich our two countries."

Official Soviet reports of the meeting quoted Gorbachev as stressing his bottom line that whatever German arrangement was worked out must preserve European stability, with the concerns of Germany's neighbours taken into account.

Gorbachev's remarks have set the tone for what remains a controversial subject in Moscow, with Politburo conservative Yegor Ligachev making clear in the Central Committee that he regarded the whole idea as highly dangerous.

Conditions

Other officials have put two specific conditions:

— There must be an acceptable solution to the military balance: Warsaw Pact member East Germany currently hosts 380,000 Soviet troops and West Germany 400,000 foreign Nato troops. Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has stated his preference for German neutrality — rejected by Nato — but has not ruled out other possibilities.

— The Germans must drop any idea of recovering territories lost to Poland and the Soviet Union after World War II.

Although German unity seems to be bearing down fast, with first moves likely after elections in East Germany on March 18, Moscow still appears confident that progress towards a new European security order will be able to cope with the issue.

An East-West force reduction agreement expected later this year will reduce the scale of the military problem by making big cuts in the number of US and Soviet troops in Germany — probably to about 200,000 men per side.

The agreement will be signed at a summit of the 35 states party to the conference on security and co-operation in Europe which, both superpowers hope, will speed the transformation of Nato and the Warsaw Pact into mainly political alliances.

Baker, during his Moscow visit, even hinted that Washington might be willing to accept a united Germany that, although linked with Nato, would not be a full member.

Accord

The hoped-for troop cut accord now seems almost certain to be complemented this year by a US-Soviet Start treaty — under negotiation since 1982 — that will halve superpower arsenals of long-range nuclear missiles and bombers.

Many of the nagging disputes about verifying cruise missiles, coding test data and counting non-deployed "spare" missiles have been cleared, and both countries hope to have the treaty outlines ready for their next summit in June.

The summit, which will be held in the United States, is shaping up as another of the set-piece foreign events with which Gorbachev will secure his Western flank as he battles at home to transform the Soviet political and economic system.

A key point in this struggle will be the next Communist Party congress, now scheduled for the end of June and early July, that will probably witness a showdown between the reformers and the conservatives.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1589 — Duke of Mayenne enters Paris and is declared lieutenant general of the kingdom of the Catholic League.

1677 — England's King Charles II announces he has made alliance with Dutch against France.

1763 — Peace treaty of Hubertusberg between Prussia and Austria.

1798 — Roman republic is proclaimed by French after capture of Rome, and Pope Pius VI refuses to surrender temporal power and leaves Rome for Valence.

1806 — Franco-Prussian treaty against Britain, whereby Prussia closes her ports to British ships.

1894 — France and Germany reach agreement on boundaries between French Congo and Cameroons.

1897 — Allied powers land forces on Crete.

1898 — US battleship Maine is blown up in Havana, Cuba, harbour.

1942 — Singapore surrenders to Japanese forces in World War II.

1944 — US troops complete reconquest of Solomon Islands in Pacific Ocean in World War II: nearly 1,000 British bombers pound Berlin, Germany.

1965 — China's foreign minister Chen Yi says in Beijing that peaceful coexistence with United States is out of the question.

1970 — Israeli oil pipeline is opened, linking Elat to Askelon.

1973 — United States and Cuba sign agreement calling for prosecution or extradition of hijackers of airplanes and ships.

1978 — Agreement is announced in Rhodesia to bring blacks into key roles in government of prime minister Ian Smith.

1986 — Philippines National Assembly officially proclaims Ferdinand Marcos as president for another six years, after all opposition members walk out in protest.

1988 — Austria's President Kurt Waldheim, accused of having Nazi past, flatly rejects widespread calls for his resignation.

1989 — Afghan rebel leaders propose plan for interim government as Soviet Union ends nine-year military intervention in Afghanistan.

European-style presidency urged Whither Soviet communism

MOSCOW, (AP): The party of Lenin has endorsed multiparty politics and private ownership, and rejected dictatorship by any class of people. What is left of Soviet communist theory appears to be mostly "spirit" and "methodology."

A new platform the Communist Party is taking into the Supreme Soviet legislature on Wednesday, then to local elections this spring and the party's next congress in summer bears little resemblance in concept or phraseology to the ideas that have driven the Soviet Union for 72 years.

Platform

Pushed by Mikhail S Gorbachev through a meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee last week, the platform calls for establishment of a strong European-style presidency in a country where the Communist Party chief has been the most powerful person.

— In a system based on deductive logic claiming to predict the course of history, it declares "ideological blinkers, dogmatism and intolerance towards different views and ideas."

— From the Marxist prohibition on private ownership of factories, the party has come over to the belief that "the existence of individual property, including ownership of the means of production, does not contradict the modern stage in the country's economic development."

— The new Soviet Communist Party now believes that instead of a dictatorship of the proletariat leading to communism, "there is no room for dictatorship by any class." Democratic centralism, the theory that requires strict obedience to decisions made at the top is under review.

— Competition from other political parties is all right. The party recognizes that other countries using other systems have found a path to the general prosperity and social justice communists thought could only be reached through Marxism.

The large majority of Supreme Soviet deputies who gather in the Kremlin on Wednesday will be asked to put those new ideas into action by calling an emergency session of the Congress of People's Deputies to strengthen the presidency, and passing laws on ownership of land, property, and taxation.

Phrases

The new platform depends on phrases such as "immunity of... home and property, the secrecy of correspondence and telephone conversation," "freedom of speech, the press, meetings and demonstration and the formation of public organisations," "free self-determination in the spiritual sphere, the freedom of conscience and religion."

It sketches a pluralistic system of political liberties and varied forms of ownership that make the future Soviet Union sound much like a Western democracy with a mixed economy.

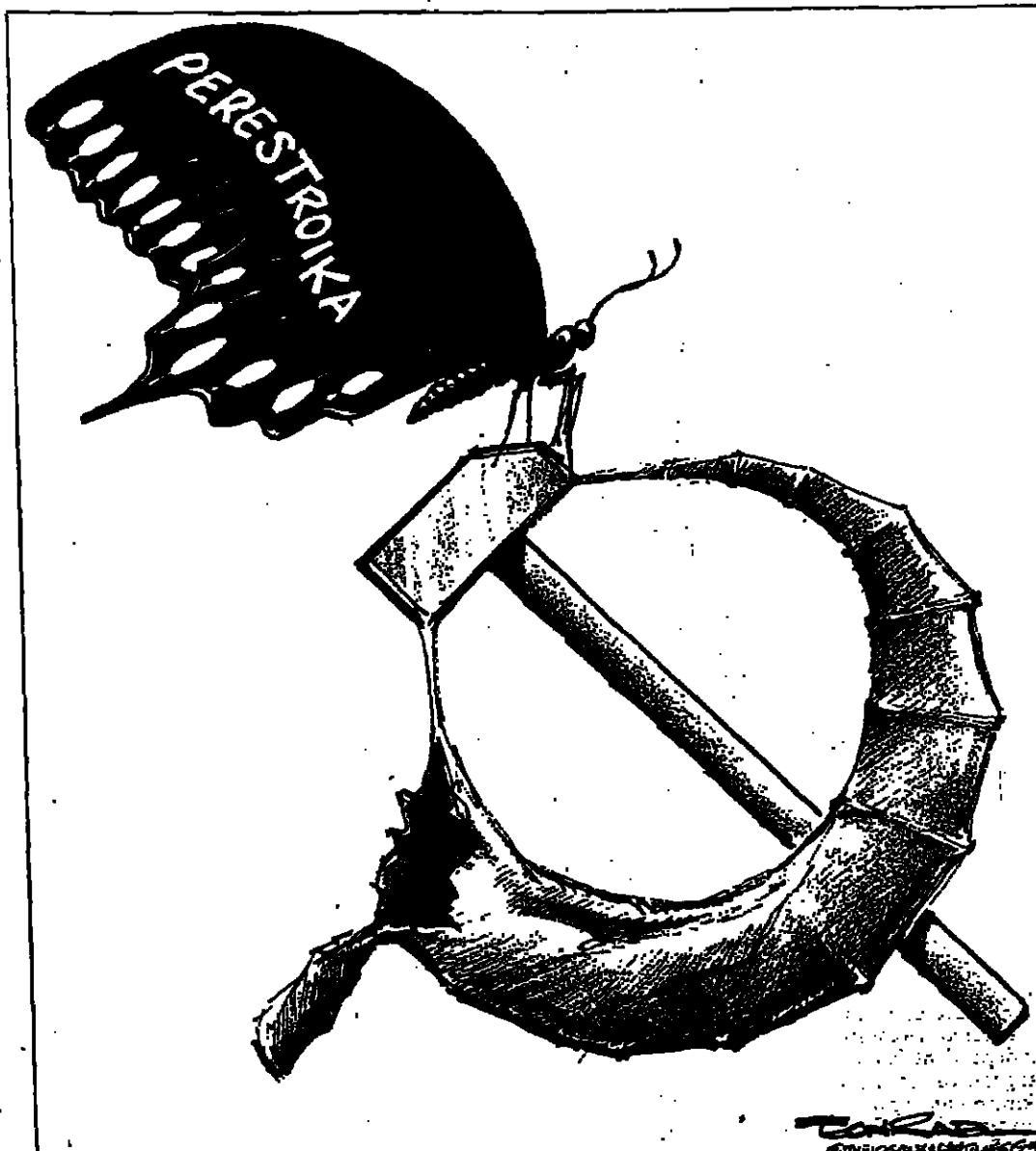
What is left of Marxist theory and Soviet communist practice?

The platform at the beginning of its first section affirms its "faithfulness to the creative spirit of the materialist world outlook and the dialectical methodology of Marx, Engels and Lenin."

There is little to indicate how that will be implemented in the future and if the communists keep power, how it will distinguish the Soviet Union from other countries.

The platform proclaims with pride the Soviet Union's commitment to pensions, free education and medical care and other social benefits pioneered by Soviet socialism.

Despite permitting private ownership of factories, the new communist policy statement echoes classic Marxism by standing against the alienation of man from the product of his work, and exploitation of one man by another.



Conflicts dog policy

MOSCOW, (Reuters): Raging ethnic conflicts around the periphery of the Soviet Union have dogged the Kremlin under its policy of greater openness, or glasnost, introduced by President Mikhail Gorbachev.

At the same time, a subterranean but peaceful march towards greater autonomy is under way in the three Baltic republics.

Both trends have deeply alarmed the Soviet leadership, which has issued periodic calls for calm to what it says are threats to Gorbachev's perestroika reform programme.

Bloodiest

The bloodiest conflicts, between Armenians and Azeris, has driven Moscow to dispatch troops to the region and sent refugees from each republic scurrying for safety. Reverberations from that conflict continue to swirl.

The following is a review of the major conflicts by region:

— **Central Asia.** In the Tajik capital Dushanbe, angry crowds confronted troops and tanks on Tuesday after six people were killed in riots sparked by the arrival of Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan.

Similar outbreaks, also aimed at arriving Armenians, have swept through the mountainous republics of Georgia and Chechnya.

Last June, 10 days of rioting in the Fergana Valley of Uzbekistan left 110 dead when native Uzbeks attacked Meskhetian Turks, deported to the region from Georgia by dictator Josef Stalin in 1944.

That same month, disorders erupted in the town of Novy Uzen, in Kazakhstan, when workers rioted in anger over higher living standards enjoyed by immigrant workers from

Transcaucasia. Four people were killed.

In July, one person was killed in battles between villagers from the border region between Kirgizia and Tajikistan caused by long-standing disputes over land and water rights.

— **Transcaucasia.** The three Soviet republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia have a tangled and bloody history of ethnic clashes.

Community has pitted Armenians against Azeris in two years of clashes that have cost more than 520 lives.

Feeding the rivalry between traditionally Christian Armenians and the Shiite Muslim Azeris is a territorial dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh.

The predominantly Armenian enclave is legally a part of Azerbaijan.

Mud-slinging

SIR: The memories of British imperialist regime and their atrocities still haunt millions of Indians for they witnessed many sad experiences, in that era. Perhaps one of the saddest part of British history has been that quite a large number of our freedom fighters and prominent leaders of those days were tried in the court by implicating them on false and baseless charges. It seems that either history is repeating itself or else we are trying to keep legacy of British Raj alive.

The character assassination of a 64-year-old former Union Minister Ziaur Rahman Ansari by implicating him on patently fabricated and concocted charges of molestation of a lady social worker and to issue him summons to appear in the court during previous Congress regime when Ansari himself was a Cabinet Minister in the Federal Government, is tantamount to treason, treachery and mockery of the previous Congress government.

It was not merely a coincidence that the campaign of fabrication of falsehood and wild allegations against Ansari had been set in motion with the declaration of Parliamentary General Elections and had reached a feverish pitch with the announcement of his candidature from Unnao (U.P.) Constituency. The media particularly Indian press played patently prejudiced role. The minimum required of the newspapers is some balance in reporting and adherence as far as possible to truth. Both criteria seems to have been thrown to the winds in the sexual scandal involving Ansari. One Miss Mukti Dutta alleged sexual assault and attempted rape by the minister in his office in the bright daylight at 3 O'clock in the afternoon, during a meeting fixed by prior appointment with minister's personal staff and a lady secretary of the minister sitting outside the office.

Testimonials

Of course a person of Ansari's stature does not require individual testimonials and his repeated electoral triumph from his constituency Unnao (U.P.) since 1962 is sufficient public endorsement of Ansari's character. Ansari has never been accused of moral depravity, as he protested at the press conference. The media in this situation had the duty to dig out his past contrary behaviour or accept it as a given. "In a word, the press has acted as prosecutor, judge and jury rolled into one, this is travesty of justice and fair reporting," wrote Professor Rahmatullah Khan who teaches law at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.

"Under the umbrage of 'women's oppression' Miss Dutta or her words cannot be taken for granted. Just the fact that woman comes out sobbing from a room — something which has been denied by Ansari's secretary — does not mean that she has been assaulted.... Who cannot act out a sobbing scene? Is it not like an Indian formula film situation — the villain fails to bend a man to her wishes, tears up her own dress and screams out that she has been raped by that man?... It is the easiest way to settle scores with a man by charging him and his character?" wrote a noted writer Mrs Safia Iqbal on this episode in one of the English dailies.

There is one more vital aspect of this incident which the press should have looked into: Why did Miss Dutta go first to see the Cabinet Secretary and not to the nearest police station to lodge her complaint? And why did she wait until after the announcement of Ansari's Congress I candidature from

Letters to the Editor

Unnao? Why the report with the police was lodged on Oct 27, 89 instead of October 11, 1989 when the actual incident took place? Even a casual observer would not have failed to notice that the entire motive of her allegation against Ansari was for the denial of Congress ticket to him and his dismissal from the ministry. As Mrs Safia Iqbal commenting on this scandal further remarked that "male chauvinism cannot be countered by female chauvinism. Discrimination cannot be answered by reverse discrimination. A man as much as a woman has an honour and his modesty and honour can also be assaulted as much as a woman's."

Now the venue, ministerial offices are indeed well endowed but they do not generate the environment that can be sexually operationalised. A person who has been a minister in the central government continuously since 1973, certainly could have managed a much better venue. As Ansari himself said in one of the press release that "Even an insane sex maniac should be credited with more intelligence than this."

Apparently, the previous Congress government chose to use double-edged sword to tackle this sensitive issue. On the one hand the Congress Party either dropped Ansari from the ministry nor denied him the party ticket to contest the election probably because of Ansari's image as crusader of Muslim cause and his fearless and firm stand on historic Muslim personal law issue in Parliament nearly four years ago. Obviously it would have not been a wise step to annoy Muslim voters at that crucial juncture when the parliamentary elections were around the corner. At the same time neither the then government nor the Congress Party came to Ansari's rescue from the government or from the Congress Party except a brief verbal statement by a Congress spokesman and Member of Parliament Anand Sharma saying that the law of natural justice will come to play in the case of Z.R. Ansari against whom allegations of molestation and attempted rape have been levelled by Miss Mukti Dutta.

Another aspect of the mockery of outgoing Congress government been its handling of charges against S.S. Mann, vis-a-vis Ansari. Mann, the former I.P.S. officer and now member of Parliament, was charged with treason and for his alleged involvement in the conspiracy of Mrs Indira Gandhi's assassination. In an unprecedented move all the pending charges against him were dropped by the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and later Mann was released on Dec 2, 1989. This mercy was shown for no less a person than an alleged conspirator involved in the murder of former Indian prime minister.

Sided

On the other hand, the same government allowed its Home Ministry to act in a most irresponsible and autocratic manner rather sided with it in cooking up bogus and baseless charges against its own cabinet minister Ansari. It was the same government at the same period of time which served the charge-sheet and warrant of arrest to Ansari. Perhaps any other prime minister than Rajiv, would have acted more courteously, rationally and sensibly, instead of maintaining conspicuous silence on the whole affair. It is indeed this silence of the previous government and Congress high command, which would convince anybody that the whole drama of sex scandal was orchestrated with the consent of the then Union Home Ministry and Congress Party itself.

Yet there is another aspect which needs an objective analysis. Like any other country, the mighty

Indian government is the most powerful institution which has ample access and sources of information. The three different organs of Indian intelligence sources — Information Bureau (I.B.), Central Bureau of Investigation (C.B.I.) and Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) are good enough to look into such cases and to come out with facts. Now if we go as per newspapers reporting and Miss Dutta's statement which says that on Oct 11, 1989 after the molestation incident she went to meet one of her friend in Sunder Nagar. From there she rang up the then cabinet secretary T.N. Seshan, at his residence in South Block, who also assured her of strict action against the minister.

Thus it is quite evident from the newspapers reporting and Miss Dutta's statement that the then prime minister was well informed about this incident on Oct 11, 1989 itself. The decision with regard to Congress Party's ticket to Ansari, however, was taken on Oct 25, 1989. It means, therefore, that the then government had 14 days at its disposal for probe in this scandal and there are reasons to believe that the government did ascertain the facts before deciding finally to give Ansari the ticket to contest from Unnao (U.P.). Had there been any truth in the allegations the ticket to Ansari to contest the election would have obviously been refused.

Question

The question which bewilders and puzzles me and indeed it would bewilder and puzzle any common man, is as to why a supposedly educated lady would put her reputation at stake by making such serious allegations. It is perhaps this and this factor alone which tends to lead credence to these baseless allegations.

In recent memory this is probably the first time in the history of independent India that an eminent Muslim leader has been humiliated and harassed in a most crude and vulgar manner. This scandal, consequently has caused considerable anguish and pain to the Indian Muslims and of course there is more than genuine reason to it because if a national leader of no less stature than Ansari can be victimised then what is security for an ordinary Muslim citizen of this country.

This episode is indeed a bad omen and wrong precedent for today it is Ansari, tomorrow it can be anyone — V.P. Singh, Rajiv or Devi Lal. Let us hope that president of India is exempted from such mean party politics because the day president becomes the victim of such vulgar and subversive acts, it will be the darkest day for democracy of India.

Dr Syed Rizwan,
New Delhi,
India.

Corrigendum

THE letter headlined "No to exploitation," which appeared in this column Wednesday, Feb 14, should have read: in the first paragraph, third line, "why not boycott the West or those who support Israel, for some time."

We apologise for the error.

Unification gets approval nod

WEST BERLIN, (AP): The Ottawa Agreement on German unification provides the decisive international acceptance for a process that is already underway inside the two neighbouring countries.

From business ventures, to television programming and even vacation travel, the two states have been coming closer together in hundreds of ways.

"What belongs together will grow together," former chancellor Willy Brandt is fond of saying.

And Germans in both East and West have accepted the inevitability of a rapid unification since the day the Berlin Wall started falling last Nov 9.

That is not to say there are not serious obstacles in the way of making a single nation of people who would carry the same passports, pay with the same currency and serve side-by-side in the same armed forces.

Obstacle

From an international standpoint, the most serious looming obstacle may be the military stance of a united Germany.

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev has said that a Nato membership for a united Germany is "not acceptable," according to the official East German news agency ADN.

When ARD, the main West German television network, went live to its correspondent in Ottawa late Tuesday, the reporter said that most issues seemed clear but that the problem of the Nato membership had been temporarily "set to one side."

ADN, the official East German news agency, stressed that the discussions about unification "will also include the questions of security of neighbouring states."

Still mindful of the horrors of the Nazi aggression, the East German communists are seeking assurances that conservatives in Bonn have given up any designs on land that belong to Poland.

The Ottawa Agreement sets the stage for a virtual revolution, this time the first redrawing of European national boundaries since World War II. It was a step that only recently many had never expected could happen.

Internally, there are still numerous questions to be answered and mismatches to be smoothed out: "Socialism and capitalism can no more be united than fire and water," said then-East German leader Erich Honecker during a state visit to Bonn in September 1987.

While much of what the now-disgraced hardliner did and said have been ridiculed and discredited, there may be a good deal of truth in his colourful metaphor.

East German industry — the part that is still running — is a product of the heavy-handed central planning from East Berlin.

Inefficiency

West Germans say that leads to inefficiency and slowness to change, even in such simple ways as adapting to this season's "in colours" for clothing.

Most East Germans are also accustomed to a cradle-to-grave socialism that up until very recently has left very little to individual choice.

Housing, clothing and public transportation at rock-bottom prices are almost a compensation for the hundreds of daily sacrifices East Germans have had to make.

Messing the economies will be a daunting task and will require the equivalent of billions of dollars of more.

West Germany has one of the most efficient economies in the world, with strict factory safety measures and a vocal Greens party to help keep damage to the environment at low levels.

East Germany's economy has been going downhill since the 1960s when it was a driving force in East Europe.

Heavily dependent on coal and scornful of environmental restrictions, East German communists turned much of the country into a hotbed of dangerous pollution.

Other problems loom as well.

These East Germans come over here and get a lot of handouts from the government," grouched one businesswoman in the prosperous Frankfurt suburb of Koelnstein. "But they never saw that much money in their life."

Many East Germans, the elderly especially, also worry that the thousands of marks they stashed away in bank accounts will evaporate into worthless scraps once the mighty West German mark swallows up its weak neighbour.

West German leftists and union leaders warn that East Germany cannot be a source of low-wage labour.

Still, the Germans on both sides seem determined, to work out the problems, which in many cases will, simply require some time and patience.

Unification

With virtually all major groups and political parties in East Germany and West Germany in favour of unification, the main question for weeks has been when rather than whether.

Every day has brought new ties.

West German businesses have been gearing up to move into East Germany. West Germany's Dresdner Bank has opened an office in its founding city of Dresden, with other financial institutions following the trail to East Germany.

East German television talk shows have been shown on West German television. West Germany's two networks have been broadcasting election information programme into East Germany in advance of the nation's first free balloting on March 18.

Newspapers from each country are now sold in the other while most West German tour companies are already promoting trips to East Germany.

While some of these steps seem minor taken individually, they add up to a revolution for a people long separated from family and loved ones.

Quote me

"Secretary Baker's visit to Moscow made solid progress in pushing the US-Soviet agenda forward in preparation for the June summit here. We made important headway on conventional arms control, Start, nuclear testing and chemical weapons and continued to explore ways to reduce our differences on regional issues, especially concerning Central America and Afghanistan. I'm not sure that there will be three treaties to be signed by the time we have this summit, but I think there is going to be progress toward all three." — President Bush from Washington.

"This ain't the first time that I lost. Hey, I've lost in life. I'll come back. It's part of your character, what you're made out of." — Mike Tyson.

"Douglas was felled by a punch and what I did was the count without looking to the timekeeper outside the ring. With 22 years of experience and 30 world title fights, I think I have the ability to do that. I prefer not to depend on someone at the edge of the ring who is only doing a count-keeper. Of course, you can look for his help." — Octavio Meyran defending his handling of the Tyson-Douglas bout in Tokyo.

Pharaoh's death curse still alive

CAIRO, Feb 14, (UPI): If you think the pharaoh's curse is a joke, think again. It's alive, well, 3,000 years old, and can only be seen through a microscope.

Researchers in Göttingen, West Germany, told the Cairo daily the Egyptian Gazette yesterday that the cause of death for several archaeologists was not ancient mummies bent on revenge, but a tiny fungus that cannot be seen without a microscope.

"The tiny fungus is able to hibernate in Egyptian burial chambers for thousands of years, waiting for the day when the massive crypts are reopened," Gazette

writer Salah Salim reported.

The ancient Egyptian belief of life after death led relatives and friends to bury food with the mummies.

"Deadly spores have survived more than 3,000 years inside the pyramids feeding on the buried food," Salim said.

"When the tombs were reopened by the explorers, the spores awoke quickly and attached themselves to those unsuspecting humans and ate their way through their organs, causing a deadly form of cancer."

Ancient Egyptians did nothing to disprove the theory of the pharaoh's curse. A

limestone tablet found after the discovery in 1923 of King Tutankhamen's tomb carried the warning: "Death will slay with wings whoever disturbs the peace of the pharaohs."

Another limestone tablet said: "The soul of the dead pharaoh will strangle the neck of the thief as if it were a goose's neck."

West German biochemist Christian Hradecky was quoted as saying tiny fungus over the years has claimed several victims, including the British archaeologist Lord Carnarvon and twelve members of his team.

They died within six years of opening the tomb of Tutankhamen in 1923, Hradecky said.

"Two members of the crew who flew King Tut's relics to London from Cairo in 1972 — died suddenly though they were superbly fit," he said.

"Twelve members of a Polish anthropological team died after opening the tomb of another pharaoh in 1973."

Hradecky said 40 German museum workers were currently suffering from severe health problems, which doctors think could be caused by the deadly spores.

Egypt, PLO in war of words

Shamir faces Labour challenge on peace moves

CAIRO, Feb 14, (UPI): A war of words between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Egypt — which represents the PLO in the latest Middle East peace initiative — intensified yesterday, leading to fears the rift might further complicate US efforts to achieve dialogue between Israel and Palestinians.

The growing rift between Egypt and the PLO came amid reports of closer Egyptian-Israeli co-operation in combatting Middle East terrorism, after gunmen attacked a bus carrying Israeli tourists east of Cairo Feb 4, leaving nine Israelis dead and 16 other people wounded.

Egypt's swift and sharp response followed an interview with Khalaf in the Bahrain-based Akbar Al Khaleef, where he said that Cairo should reconsider its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, because the settling of Soviet Jewry in Israeli-occupied territories violated the treaty.

Israeli Attorney General Yoel Hershkovitz on Wednesday investigated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' resignation from the cabinet, ruling that he must inform the government of such plans before submitting a letter to the United Nations.

On Sunday, May 14, the press officer of Egypt's ruling National Democratic Party, slammed the PLO's 1988 declaration of statehood, accusing Israel of aiding the deadly bus attack.

"Mr Palestinian ambassador, you don't have to apologise, for we don't care about your testimony or your opinion, or even your presence in Cairo," Mayo said in a front-page editorial. The newspaper said Egypt had

It also coincided with conflicting attitudes both within Likud and its ruling coalition partner, Shimon Peres's Labour Party, on how Israel should approach US calls for dialogue between Palestinians and the Jewish state.

"(PLO No.2) Salah Khalaf should never intervene in the internal affairs of Egypt... it would be better for him to devote his attention only to the Palestinian issue," the semi-official Cairo daily Al-Ahram quoted yesterday a senior Egyptian government official as saying.

PLO to reshuffle missions to cope with changes in East

ABUDHABI, Feb 14, (AP): The PLO plans a major reshuffle of its diplomatic missions abroad to meet their performance and cope with changes in eastern Europe, a senior PLO official said today.

The official, who requested anonymity, said PLO leader Yasser Arafat has approved the decision, to be enforced in May.

"It is a restructuring of our missions after they were turned into embassies, and is designed to upgrade their performance at this stage," said the official during a visit to the United Arab Emirates.

He said the move became necessary after the proclamation of an independent Palestine state in 1988 and political changes in eastern Europe, where Israel was seen as making political gains.

"Arafat's decision to reshuffle PLO mission took into account eastern European developments,

offered everything to the Palestinians, including 100,000 lives lost in wars against Israel, but in return had received, 'a stab in the back'."

In a further indication of worsening Egypt-Palestinian ties, the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) yesterday reported that two Palestinian brothers brought up in Egypt had been denied Egyptian

nationality. Regional observers said the report signalled Cairo's growing impatience with the PLO could also affect thousands of Palestinian refugees living in Egypt.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials have expressed hope that a meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, the United States and Israel may take place "soon".

Egypt again tries to end Senegal-Mauritania rift

CAIRO, Feb 14, (AP): President Hosni Mubarak suggested to the foreign ministers of Mauritania and Senegal today new proposals to end a bloody border dispute between the West African neighbours.

Butros Ghali, Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, did not specify what the new proposals are but said negotiators will discuss them in a mediation session next Tuesday in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

The minister spoke to reporters after he and Mubarak met with Senegal's Foreign Minister, Ibrahim Fall, and his Mauritanian counterpart, Maj. Sidi Ahmed Ould Baba. Ghali's comments were distributed by the Middle East News Agency.

Mubarak has been mediating the West African dispute as chairman of the Addis Ababa-based Organisation of African Unity.

"It has been agreed during the meeting (with Mubarak) to hold a new session of negotiations... in Addis Ababa Feb 20 on the sidelines of the OAU foreign ministers' meeting," Ghali said.

Middle East News Agency said Mauritania's Baba alleged that Senegal is "complicating the dispute because Senegal always proposes issues that are unrelated to the present dispute."

Senegal's Fall said today's meeting held pinpoint efforts that each side should make to resolve the dispute.

Neither official explained his remarks. Tuesday's meeting will be the fourth mediating round between the two sides and a six-nation OAU committee, which Mubarak chairs.

Ethnic and racial battles last year killed hundreds of Mauritians and Senegalese in each other's country and left many thousands homeless.

The countries broke relations on Aug 22, and tensions remain high.

Shamir eats his words

Collaborator killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 14, (Reuters): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir denied yesterday he said Israel needed the occupied territories to absorb Soviet Jews but added the government would not stop immigrants settling there.

"I must stress that there is no government policy to direct immigrants specifically to Judea, Samaria (Biblical names for the West Bank and Gaza)," Shamir told Parliament.

"But it is not about and it does not want to prevent immigrants from choosing to live in Judea, Samaria and Gaza," he said. "Every immigrant is free to choose his place of residence. This is the government's policy."

Shamir was responding to 10 no-confidence motions — six of them from leftist parties — protesting at this remark to rightist Likud Party members on Jan 14.

"For the big immigration, we must have the (Biblical) land of Israel, and we have to fight for it, struggle for it."

He said yesterday: "There is no truth to the things that were attributed to me or the interpretations that were given, as if I said Israel needs the territories."

In Geneva, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Israel was violating international law by moving Soviet and other settlers into the West Bank and Gaza.

The Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, protecting civilians from the effects of war, prohibits an occupying power from transferring its population into land it controls, ICRC president Cornelio Sommaruga said.

PLO averse to Israeli coalition

KUWAIT, Feb 14, (AP): A top Palestine Liberation Organisation official was quoted today as saying the PLO preferred an Israeli government formed by either the Likud bloc or the Labour Party, rather than a coalition cabinet.

"The formation of a single-cow cabinet will be helpful to all parties concerned with the Middle East problem," said Salah Khalaf to a Kuwaiti daily newspaper.

Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, is the second in command to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in the mainstream Fatah group.

Khalaf, interviewed in Tunis where the PLO is headquartered, argued that an Israeli government led either by the hardline Likud or the moderate Labour Party would provide a clearer direction for the peace-making process.

"An Israeli government led by either the Likud or

VOA building station in Negev

TEL AVIV, Feb 14, (Reuters): Construction of a Voice of America (VOA) relay station in the Negev desert aimed at 50 million Muslims in central Asia will start within two months, Israeli and US officials said.

Communications Minister Gad Yacobi said the billion-dollar station, opposed by Israeli environmentalists, was part of the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

Malcolm Forbes Jr, head of a visiting US delegation, said the sweeping changes in East Europe showed the radio broadcasts were vital for other regions without democratic governments.

"If you talk to the new leaders of these East European nations, they'll all testify to the vital role that short-wave radio broadcasts played in making possible the rise of democracy in that part of the world," Forbes told a news conference.

The station will transmit VOA and Radio Liberty to central and South Asia, East Europe and Africa. The two governments agreed on the project in 1987.

Floods kill 11 in southeast Iran

NICOSIA, Feb 14, (AP): Ten people were killed when a massive fell into a river and another person drowned yesterday following floods in large regions of Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchistan province, the Islamic republic news agency reported.

The agency said the towns of Chahabhar on the southern tip of the province and more than 60 surrounding towns were hit by the floods.

IRNA said rivers burst their banks after three days of non-stop rain which have submerged some 2,700 square miles (7,000 square kilometres) of the region.

Geagea vows to fight on; Aoun calls up reservists

(Continued from Page 1)

"A merger is something and to destroy the LF and dissolve them in the army is something else," Geagea said he would fight to the end if Aoun's troops attacked his militia "even if it destroys the enclave and leaves the path clear for Syrian intervention."

LF militiamen and Aoun's troops have been locked in bitter conflict for months in the Christian enclave since January 31. In 15 days, more than 500 people were killed and 1,750 wounded.

The enclave is ringed by Syrian troops and Lebanese army troops loyal to President Elias Hrawi but they have not intervened in the fighting. Aoun refuses to recognise the internationally-backed Hrawi.

Security sources said earlier Aoun seemed to be preparing a large-scale attack on LF militia positions in the strategic Keserwan range northeast of Beirut.

Despite two days of relative calm in the battles, tension ran high in East Beirut as the war for control of the Christian enclave entered its third week today.

In statements broadcast on his TV and radio stations, the general told reservists to report for duty and urged civilians to join a new brigade for "supporters of the army."

Aoun's regular troops are aiming to join a committee headed by the general to rule the enclave, as stipulated by a church-mediated peace pact between the two forces.

Security sources said despite reported reinforcements by both the LF and the army at East Beirut's frontlines and in the strategic Keserwan range 20 km (12 miles) northeast of Beirut, there were no signs of an

imminent offensive. Witnesses said although LF and army tanks were only 300 metres (yards) apart in Keserwan, militiamen and troops were not on a state of alert.

"Many were crouched around fires. But the streets were deserted and the people were frightened," said one witness.

Hrawi's government, based in West Beirut, sent 100 tons of relief aid to be distributed to 10,000 families in the city's Christian sector which has an estimated population of half a million people.



Savage battle

Fighters of Christian Lebanese Forces militia check Red Cross trucks, loaded with food and medical supply before they enter battered East Beirut, as the two warring Christian armies continued their savage battle. (Reuters wirephoto)

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Army claims 37 rebel dead: Government troops killed 37 Sudanese rebels during operations in southern Sudan early this week, the armed forces newspaper said on Wednesday.

Al-Kuraym Al-Musallaha said Monday's action, which it called "mopping-up operations," was to "restore security and stability to citizens" of southern Kordofan and Darfur regions who had been attacked recently by Sudan People's Liberation Army rebels. (AP)

Valentine message: The family of American hostage Thomas Sutherland sent him a Valentine's Day message of love on Wednesday.

"We send ourselves with special Valentine love and a prayer that it finds you in heart and health," the message published in the Muslim west Beirut-based As-Safir newspaper said. (Reuters)

Aid cuts cause hardship: Polisario defectors said on Tuesday creation of the Arab Maghreb Union had helped to cut arms and food supplies to the group fighting Morocco for the independence of western Sahara.

Six recent defectors from the Algeria-based group told a news conference food and drink were severely rationed for 40,000 Saharan refugees in camps in the Tindouf area of South-West Algeria. (Reuters)

Wave of strikes: South Yemen has promised better day and working conditions to try to end a wave of previously rare strikes, the official Aden news agency said on Wednesday.

It said the government persuaded some 890 workers at the country's only textile mill to end their two-day stoppage after promising to consider their demands.

But hours later 200 workers at a plant producing oxygen for welding said they would stop work to press for a pay rise.

It was the fifth strike in less than a month in the Marxist country, moving to liberalise before it merges with pro-Western North Yemen next November. (Reuters)

Killed

The other main rebel movement in northern Ethiopia, the Tigray People's Liberation (TPLF), said last night that it killed 1,813 soldiers and captured 1,011 in battles near Wichale in Wollo province on Friday and Saturday.

The TPLF radio said rebel forces staged a successful counter-attack at Wichale against the army, which has managed to recapture several towns in northern Wollo.

The TPLF, based in the northern province of Tigray, is trying to overthrow President Mengistu Haile Mariam and install a broader-based government in Ethiopia.

The increased fighting has stopped all famine relief work in drought-hit northern Ethiopia where, according to the United Nations, up to four million people face starvation.

Ordered

Relief sources in Addis Ababa told Reuters in Nairobi by telephone the government ordered the joint relief partnership, a consortium of church-based relief agencies, to suspend all food distribution in Eritrea after the EPLF launched its push.

The sources said ships carrying relief aid for Eritrea, which lost 80 per cent of its crops in last year's drought, were being diverted from Massawa to Ethiopia's southern port of Aden.

A Danish freighter carrying relief supplies for the Irish charity concern came under fire from a gunboat near Massawa on Monday. It was not clear which side carried out the attack.

Discuss

Relief agency representatives were due to meet TPLF leaders in Khartoum to discuss mounting an across-the-lines food aid operation.

Massawa was the last gateway for food and fuel to enter government-held areas of Eritrea. Diplomats said the provincial capital Asmara had to rely on airlifts from Addis Ababa.

Arbitrary arrests, torture, abuse of power, disappearances of people and restrictions on the freedom of the press, opinion, association and travel were among allegations in the draft.

The draft was signed by five people, including Ali Mohamed Ben Abdelhadi, head of the Bar Association, and Mohamed Al Hibi, head of the Moroccan human rights association.

The charter said human rights in Morocco were "limited in practice despite being codified in the constitution, laws, declarations and international pacts ratified (by Morocco)."

The Amnesty International delegation was due to hold talks in Rabat today with Interior Minister Driss Bazzi and Justice Minister Moulay Mustapha Belbarbi.

Amnesty said last month it would discuss with the king and government leaders what it said was the detention of hundreds of political prisoners, inhuman prison conditions and the disappearance of hundreds of people without trial.

King Hassan has denied there are any political prisoners in Morocco, saying all those in jail are common criminals.

Fake dollars 'printed in Iraq': Iran's official news agency said on Wednesday a gang of smugglers circulating high-quality forged 100-dollar bills confessed they were printed in Iraq.

The Islamic republic news agency, said that 25 smugglers were arrested in a raid in western Lorestan province.

The agency said the smugglers confessed the notes came from Iraq.

Tehran television had reported on Monday that high-quality forged 100-dollar bills good enough to pass through special electronic detectors as well as a large amount of forged Iranian currency had been seized. (AP)

9 Turks arrested: Nine Turks, including a Catholic priest, have been arrested for allegedly smuggling to Greece Kurdish refugees settled in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir after fleeing from Iraq, police announced on Wednesday.

A written statement said police acting on a tip found five Greek passports prepared for five Kurds in the home of auto dealer Omer Kose in the district of Futh in Istanbul. (AP)

DFLP claims Israeli casualties: The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed on Wednesday its fighters killed or wounded nine Israeli soldiers during a clash in south Lebanon.

There was no comment from the Israeli army command on the alleged attack.

The DFLP said in a communique issued in Beirut a squad clashed with Israeli troops in Marjayoun, the largest town inside Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon.

It said the squad was heading out on an anti-Israeli "combat mission" at 10 am (0800 GMT) when they were confronted by an Israeli patrol.

"Our heroes clashed with the enemy, killing or wounding nine enemy soldiers and destroying an armoured personnel carrier," said the communique. (AP)

Mubarak invites Mandela: President Hosni Mubarak on Wednesday invited South African anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela to Cairo, the state-run Middle East news agency reported.

The agency quoted Butros Ghali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Egypt's top Africa expert, as saying the black activist, just set free after 27 years in prison, was invited so that "Egypt could officially express its support of the South African people." (AP)

Turkish miners stop work: More than 100,000 Turkish miners stopped work for two hours on Wednesday to protest at what they said were unsafe working conditions which they blamed for a mine explosion last week which killed 66 workers.

The semi-official Anatolian news agency said most of the boycotting miners were employed in coal mines in the Black Sea province of Zonguldak, Turkey's main coal basin. (Reuters)

Akbulut to visit Tehran: Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut will pay an official visit to Iran from February 28 to March 2, the Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

"The visit will further solidify the improvements in Turkish-Iranian relations," a ministry spokesman said.

Ties were strained last year after Iran criticised a court ban on Islamic-style headscarves being worn at Turkish universities. Both governments recalled ambassadors after Turkey accused Iran of meddling in its internal affairs. (Reuters)

Torture widespread in Morocco: rights groups

RABAT, Feb 14, (Reuters): Human rights groups and lawyers charged today that torture and arbitrary arrests were widespread in Morocco.

They handed to reporters a draft human rights charter alleging that the government was violating human rights guaranteed in the constitution.

The charter was released by the Bar Association, Jurists Association and three human rights groups one day after officials from Amnesty International discussed alleged rights abuses.

Arbitrary arrests, torture, abuse of power, disappearances of people and restrictions on the freedom of the press, opinion, association and travel were among allegations in the draft.

The draft was signed by five people, including Ali Mohamed Ben Abdelhadi, head of the Bar Association, and Mohamed Al Hibi, head of the Moroccan human rights association.

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King Hassan has denied there are any political prisoners in Morocco, saying all those in jail are common criminals.

Five Moroccan Islamic activists convicted of belonging to an illegal organisation have been jailed for between nine months and two years, defence lawyers said yesterday.

Arabs urged to abandon small group alliances

DAMASCUS, Feb 14, (Reuters): Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Zuhri has called on Arabs to abandon small group alliances and redouble efforts to strengthen the 22-member Arab League.

"Arabs are called upon to abandon differences and alliances and to adopt a joint Arab economic and political strategy to counter the challenges of the new era," Syrian newspapers today quoted Zuhri as saying.

"Syria considers the Arab League with its institutions as a great accomplishment and a base upon which constructive steps should be taken to reach Arab unity," he said.

The League, established in the 1945, groups all Arab states but three other alliances have since emerged.

These are the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council, the four-nation Arab Co-operation Council and the five-nation Maghreb Council.

Witnesses said although LF and army tanks were only 300 metres (yards) apart in Keserwan, militiamen and troops were not on a state of alert.

"Many were crouched around fires. But the streets were deserted and the people were frightened," said one witness.

Hrawi's government, based in West Beirut, sent 100 tons of relief aid to be distributed to 10,000 families in the city's Christian sector which has an estimated population of half a million people.



Children shine at Indian School function

CROWDS swarmed in like honey-bees, parents bubbled with expectation, and children shone. The occasion was the much-awaited annual day function of the Indian School, Abbasiya (F.N.). The date was February 7, and the venue was the snazzy-adorned Arts Circle auditorium in Funesites. No kidding, the show belonged to the kids.

Almost every performance received thunderous applause, the daily grind forgotten for the concert's four-hour duration. The evening began with the sleekly presented "Mere Desh Ki Dharti" by the over K.G. section. For few minutes, the audience was transported to an Indian village. Only to be taken to Bombay by the next presentation Bombay Meri Hai

true-to-life depiction of the din and bustle of Indian metropolitan life by students of the preparatory section.

From Bombay to Gujarat. The next presentation was the extra-popular Disco Dandiya, which was near flawless in its mingling of the traditional Dandiya dance of Gujarat and the modern disco dance. Quite naturally, this presentation

created such an impact that the crowd kept demanding an encore.

It got a surprise instead. The next performance was the highlight of the programme — a splendid enactment of the historical play "Anarkali" by senior students. Other attractions included the ballet "Romeo and Juliet", a peppy Egyptian dance and the hilarious one-act

play "Mind your Language".

Later, the headmistress K. Chhatwal welcomed the guests and Principal T.K. Vishwanath proposed the vote of thanks. The chief guests of the evening were Mrs and Mr Abdul Khalique, first secretary in the Indian Embassy.

All said and done, the programme was a smash success.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration maybe made by phoning the

Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Hobby Centre
FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah
14 Feb. Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem exhibition, opening 4.30 pm co-organized

by the British Council Wed 14 February - Wed 21 February. This is a specially designed photographic exhibition which is accompanied by wall text and is on display for only a week. Dr Bourgoyne who will give a lecture in Arabic and in English is author of the architectural catalogue which accompanies the exhibition.

SOCIAL

British Council
Children's film: Wednesday, 14 Feb. at 6.00 pm; Thursday 15 Feb. at 10.30 am. Five Go To

Demon's Rock: The Famous Five go treasure hunting after hearing about a legend of hidden gold in the Wrecker's Cave near Demon's Rock. Join them in their exciting adventure in their search for an old gold coin. 44 min. Admission is free but please book seats by calling Tel.: 2515512, 2533204 and 2533227.

PRESENTED by a group of 4 young Austrian artists at the Kuwait International Hotel on 24th February at 8.00 pm. Winners of the first prize at the Youth Musicians' Festival in Austria, they have recorded for the radio and television in Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, USSR, Egypt and Austria. In the Terrace Room. Tel: 2530000 ext 8039/8040

Bazaar
KHALIFA School will be holding a bazaar selling home produce at 9 to 12 am on Thursday 15. For further information 5712544.

Oil and Gas Catalogue Show

THE Commercial Service of the American embassy announces an "Oil and Gas Catalogue Show" at the Kuwait Continental Hotel during Feb 19-20, 1990, between 8.30 am and 8.30 pm.

Catalogues of more than 200 US companies in the Oil and Gas industry will be displayed. Interested firms are invited to attend.

For further information please contact, Abdulla Majalli, Tel: 2424151 ext 267, Fax: 2407368.

Robbie in the lobby

ROBBIE 2002 a remote control robot over 1.2 metre tall will be performing in the main lobby of the Kuwait International Hotel on 23rd, 24th and 25th February at 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm. It can greet, talk, rotate, bow backwards and forwards, tap dance, and perform many other tricks to entertain children of all ages. It has made over 200 television appearances, the most successful being the British TV Quiz show 3.2.1 having over 17 million viewers and was seen across the world. Tickets on sale now. KDI.000 per person. Tel: 2530000 ext 8040.

Carnival Dinner Nite

Carnival dinner nite by the Entertainers will be held at the SAS Hotel (The Tent) with music provided by Top Ranks & Perfect Strangers, on 22nd Feb. 1990 from 20.30 hours onwards. Highlights of the evening: Parade by K-Momo, Crowning of Carnival Queen, Ramba Samba dance competition. Group prizes, and many other surprises. For further details please contact: The Organisers, Chopsticks Chinese takeaway. Tel: 5617243.

Shaheed Day

THE Bangladesh Association, Kuwait, will hold a cultural function on the occasion of "Shaheed Day" on Feb 24, at 6.30 pm at the Bangladesh embassy premises, Khalidiya. Mr. K. M. Shehabuddin, the ambassador, will be the chief guest.

All Bangladeshis are invited.

Kuwait Welsh Society
ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dance Thursday 1st March 1990, Al Messilah Beach Hotel. For ticket reservations & more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

Bits n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel: 5634663.

ACOI seven-a-side

ACOI overseas is pleased to announce their first one day football tournament which will be held on the March 2, 1990, at the Sour Grounds.

For further information contact, Casimiro D'Souza or Menino Leitao at the Sour Grounds.

Singapore festival

SAS Kuwait Hotel will feature Singapore festival on 20th and 21st February at The Tent. The oriental extravaganza will present lion dancers, Chinese dancers, finger painter plus elaborate buffet of popular Singaporean recipes prepared by Singaporean chefs. First of its kind in Kuwait, the show was put up in co-ordination with Singapore Tourist Promotion Board and Singapore Airlines and aims to foster closer relations between the two countries. Tickets available at 'SAS' hotel. For reservations, please call 5657000 ext 401 or 403.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, present the Kuwait Folk Group in concert on 14th and 15th February, at 8 pm both nights. Tickets, can be ordered by phoning 3919759. Videos of the recent very successful pantomime Sinbad the Sailor, can be picked up from the theatre on Sunday 4th February from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Valentine celebrations

BE MY VALENTINE on February 15, 1990 at Sunrise Pinoy Restaurant, Mezzanine Floor, Al Dabbous Bldg. Fahadheel.

Half-heart upon entry will be given to the guest to participate in the Blind-Date Corner. Free dinner for two for the first winner and a surprise games for all for a Cupid Gift. Dinner buffet for all.

So come and join us and see how Cupid's arrow works. For more information call 3918884. Party will start at 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm.

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.07 am
Zohr	12.02 pm
Asr	3.13 pm
Maghreb	5.37 pm
Isha	6.55 pm

FRIDAY

Fajr	5.07 am
Zohr	12.02 pm
Asr	3.13 pm
Maghreb	5.38 pm
Isha	6.55 pm

Parkar to attend mushaira

NOOR PARKAR, a well-known Urdu poet and writer has been invited to attend mushaira (poetry session) in Qatar to be held on Feb 16 under the auspices of Indo-Qatar Urdu Markaz.

The proposed mushaira coincides with 18th anniversary of the accession to power of His Highness the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani.

Along with Majrooh Sultanpuri and Akhtar-ul-Iman, a number of eminent Urdu poets and writers will also participate in this mushaira.

Noor Parkar is the only invitee from Kuwait. The president of Indo-Qatar Urdu Markaz, Mr. Mohd Sulaiman told that Kaifi Azmi and Khumar Barabanki also are coming to attend the mushaira from India.



NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Ahlam Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Muntaser Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber Street
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Ikhas Pharmacy
Beirut St.
Salmiya and Rumailiya
Finsajia Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak Street
Fahadheel and Ahmadi
Al Shaiba Pharmacy
Inheritors of Sheikh Ahmad Al Jaber Building
Farwasiya
Al Yasmeen Pharmacy
The Main Street
Jahra
Al Khalid Pharmacy
Opp. Co-operative Society



MIT has annual get-together

Madras Institute of Technology (MIT) Alumni had Annual get-together and dinner at the Holiday Inn. Arun Kumar Budhiraja, Ambassador of India, graced the occasion.

KTV 1

9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoons
9.45 Sabah Al Kher programmes
10.30 Raja Fi Al Masyada: Arabic serial (part 6), starring Sayed Zayyan, Imad Rashad, Olla Rami, 03Naema Al Sagheer
11.30 The Open University: cultural programme
12.00 Sabah Al Kher programmes
12.15 Hwar Wa Nagram: local variety programme, prepared by Khaled Bu Hameed, and presented by Nervana Idrees
1.00 News summary
1.05 Min Ghair Kalam: variety programme, presented by Hassan Mustafa
2.15 Discovery: cultural programme
3.00 Varieties
3.30 Liqa Al Khamees: local variety programme, prepared by Jameel Hmoud and presented by Ameena Al Sharaa
5.00 Sabah Al Fadha: cartoon serial
5.30 Cartoons
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Wa Qala Hakem: historical programme
7.00 Maa Al Talaba: local variety programme, presented by Nouria Al Farhan
8.00 Kul Al Foonon: local variety programme, prepared by Hassan Awwara and presented by Rasha Majidi
8.30 Maa Al Islam: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mazkour
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Ahlam Sagheer: local serial (part 7)
10.45 Qalb Al Laik: Arabic feature film, starring Noor Al Sherref, Fareed Shawqi, Hala Sadqi, Mahmoud Al Jondi and Mohaina Tawfeeq
12.20 Thursday late night feature film
1.30 News summary
1.35 The World Today via Satellite
1.50 Holy Quran and Closures

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 The Smurfs: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magic acts and illusions... training children on how to use or deal with information.
7.00 Wild America: "Imberdoodles of Moos-horn." A look at Timberdoodles in a naturally preserved area called Moos-horn.
7.30 My Secret Identity: "Looking for Trouble." Andrew attempts to utilize his supernatural power to save the world from bad social elements.
8.00 News in English
8.30 The Island Son
9.30 The Bill Cosby Show: "The Women." Justin, Theo's girlfriend, leaves him for a while and when she returns she surprises him in the arms of another woman.
10.00 More Real People: A variety of shows on people who practice unusual hobbies.
10.30 Feature Film: "Little Bit Like Murder." Starring: Elizabeth Hartman, Roger Davis, Sharon Farrell, Nina Fochi... Two Broadway sharpies are given a child to care for which results in a kidnapping.
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

FRIDAY

9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoons
9.45 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 The Children magazine: Local children programme, prepared by Ameena Khayri, and presented by a group of children.
11.00 Al Ahadeeth Al Mawdo'a: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Salah Abu Ismael.
11.15 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday Prayer.
12.25 Alwan: Local variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab.
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.20 Al Hadeeth Al Deem: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi.
2.00 The Friday Break: local programme, prepared by Qasem Abdul Oader and Presented by Dawlet Shawqi.
4.00 Al Hob We Smeem: Arabic serial (part 5), starring Hussain Fahmi, and Isaad Younis.
4.45 Saham Al Fadha: cartoon serial
5.15 Cartoons
5.30 Varieties
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official

FRIDAY

Al Andalus
Batman
Salmiya
Hall Booked
Drive-In
Beverly Hills Body Snatchers
Al Firdous
Kanoon Apna Apna
Fahadheel
Adil
Al Jahra
Arabic film
Granda
Hall Booked
Salmiya
Ninja Destroyer
Jeeb
Kahani Phoolan Ki
Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film

advertisements

6.00 Kuwait Television programmes in a week.
6.30 Kuwait in a week: local programme, prepared and presented by news and television control.
7.00 The Living Planet: cultural programme (part 6)
8.00 The Family programme: local programme, prepared by Tahani Al Burtoqalli and presented by Fotooh Al Dalali.
8.45 Hadeeth Al Osboor: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Wrestling
10.30 Asma Laha Thekna: local variety programme, prepared by Qasem Abdul Oader and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab
11.45 News summary
11.50 The World Today via Satellite

KTV 2

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6.10 The Smurfs: A cartoon series for children
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12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

FRIDAY

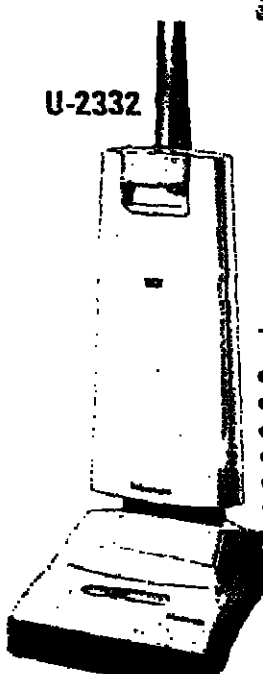
6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 Walt Disney Movie: "The Girl Who Spelled Freedom." A story about a Cambodian family saved by an American family who endeavored to instruct the Cambodian family how to live a free life.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts in Kuwait.
8.45 Rescue 911: The team carries out a certain number of rescue operations where a number of people are saved.
9.30 The Weekend Programme.
10.00 Roseanne: An old Greek man who sells detragants in the area is received at Rose's house. He dies in her kitchen and Rosie has to deal with this problem.
10.30 The Mystery Wheel: B.L. Stryker's aunt is involved with smugglers after moving smuggled goods.
11.30 News in Brief
11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

THIS IS THE DARK SIDE OF CARPETS THAT MOST VACUUM CLEANERS ARE AFRAID TO SEE

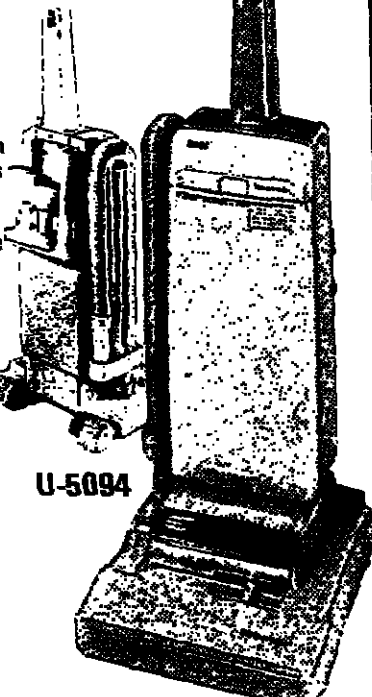
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- Built-in Accessories and flexible hose for quick use
- Air freshener
- Large 8.5L hygienic dirt bag



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استاذة / استاذ

BUSINESS & FINANCE

East German economy sliding toward disaster

BONN, West Germany, Feb 14, (AP): East German workers who began fleeing to the West last year helped spark the revolution that ended communist dictatorship, but they also left the once-vibrant economy badly crippled, possibly beyond repair.

Curtailed productivity and a lack of skilled workers now has helped speed up moves toward reunification of East and West Germany. On Tuesday, the four World War II victors agreed to negotiations on rejoining the German states.

The approval of the four allies, particularly the Soviet Union, came sooner

than expected, mostly because of fears the East German economy will collapse before scheduled multiparty elections in March that are expected to replace the communist-dominated government.

Hundreds of thousands of East Germans, many of them skilled workers, fled the country last year to escape the orthodox socialist system. On Nov 9, the struggling Communist Party, already reeling from leadership charges, protests and the exodus, opened borders to the West.

The move was to win confidence of pro-democracy supporters, but it failed

to halt the flow of people to the West.

More than 85,000 East Germans have gone to the West this year, joining 340,000 who arrived last year.

Peter Pietsch, an economist for West Germany's Commerzbank, said the exodus had devastated East Germany.

"In many offices every fourth of fifth employee is missing," Pietsch told the Associated Press. "The country could face a collapse if this outflow continues."

"A time bomb is ticking in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany)," Wolfgang Roeller, head of West Germany's Dresdner Bank, told

the news magazine Der Spiegel. "The people must be able to have trust that the economic conditions in their homeland will soon improve."

The East German government reported Tuesday that industrial production fell 5.6 per cent in January from a year earlier, mostly because of the exodus.

Exports are tumbling because of production cuts, the government said.

Worker shortages have been reported across East Germany, with mail deliveries halted in some areas because of a lack of carriers and soldiers being used to operate trolleys.

Strikes and slowdowns have exacerbated the problems.

For years, East Germany's economy was considered the strongest among East Europe's communist nations, churning out industrial goods, chemicals and other products for itself and its allies.

Its per capita income was higher than in any other East bloc nation, and twice that of the Soviet Union, according to figures released by West Germany's Deutsche Bank.

The figures showed the East German figure was 75 per cent of the average income in countries of the European

Economic Community.

Today the West German cabinet approved a supplementary 1990 budget which provides \$7.7 billion marks (\$3.45 billion) in funding for "immediate measures" to improve living conditions in East Germany.

The two German states — at West Germany's initiative — also have scheduled talks on setting up a monetary union, which would introduce West Germany's powerful Deutsche mark as the currency for both countries.

That would mark a significant step toward unification.

Dollar and gold dip in quiet market

LONDON, Feb 14, (Reuters): The dollar closed weaker against the West German mark in Europe today after a quiet session with currency markets in a hesitant mood.

Dealers said they were trying to gauge the likely effects of a financial crisis in the US, but no specific details had so far emerged that were cause for concern.

"There are so many different factors in the market of the moment that people are confused and tending to sit on their hands and do nothing," one London trader said.

On Tuesday, Drexel, Burnham & Lamont, which had been a major force in the US market in the 1980s with its business in high-risk, high-yield junk bonds, said it was seeking protection from bankruptcy.

The news that Wall Street was facing the threat of its largest bankruptcy caused a plunging of the dollar on Tuesday.

Dealers said the creation of a committee on Tuesday to look into union between East and West German currencies was widely anticipated.

But no specific details had so far emerged that were cause for concern.

Financial markets have been worrying that the introduction of a new currency in the East would trigger a high inflation and a loss of confidence in the East German mark.

Dealers said the introduction of a new currency in the East would trigger a high inflation and a loss of confidence in the East German mark.

Belgian group writes off Drexel stake

BRUSSELS, Feb 14, (Reuters): Fallout from the crash of US securities group Drexel Burnham Lambert hit Belgium today when the country's second biggest conglomerate said it would write off its 20 per cent stake in the US firm.

The group, which has a broad spread of financial and industrial investments including the biggest shareholding in Belgian oil major Petrofina, had profits of 1.8 billion francs (\$166 million) a year earlier.

"Given the impossibility of evaluating this company in current circumstances, the director of GBL consider it prudent to propose to the board writing down fully the stake in Drexel Burnham Lambert Group," GBL said in a statement.

The filing by Drexel was Wall Street's biggest bankruptcy. The move will protect it from creditors while it reorganises.

The group is the parent company of a large house Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc, a specialist in high-risk junk bonds which financed a wave of takeovers in the 1980s but whose value recently plummeted when issuing companies ran into difficulties in securing the high interest on them.

Perrier shares dive

Insider trading probe started

PARIS, Feb 14, (Reuters): France launched an inquiry today into possible insider trading in Perrier shares as they continued to tumble because of a contamination scare which has spread from the United States to Europe and Japan.

The French stock exchange said it would investigate the sale of Perrier shares by a company which had been buying them since Friday.

The company, which had been buying them since Friday, had been buying them since Friday.

was halted as a precautionary move. It would continue "until we again receive flawless water from Perrier," he added.

Fears that supplies might be recalled across Europe knocked 133 francs (\$23) off the value of Perrier shares today. By 1315 GMT they traded at 1,340 francs (\$235). They have lost nine per cent of their value since Friday when they closed at 1,692 francs (\$297).

option prices that followed the company's announcement could have allowed traders to make up to six million francs (\$1 million) in profit.

Perrier believes a cleaner used to de-grease bottles lines at its plant in Vergèze, southern France, could have caused the contamination but it says the Vergèze spring itself remains pristine.

Chairman Gustave Leven was due to give a news conference in Paris later today.

Investors now fear that all Perrier bottles will be recalled on European markets," said one Paris dealer.

Traders said there had been unusually heavy buying of "options to sell Perrier" before Friday's contamination announcement, with 300 options traded in one day instead of the usual 50.

France, the world's number one seller of mineral water, is currently seeing other celebrated brand names take a beating.

Another producer, Vitell, said today it had recalled 500,000 bottles of its second brand, the mineral water hepar, from various regions in France since the middle of last month after they were polluted by a coal filter.

Prospects for GATT deal brightening

Duffy is touring Europe

BRUSSELS, Feb 14, (Reuters): Prospects of striking a deal in world talks on liberalising trade are brightening, Australia's minister for trade negotiations said today.

"I'm encouraged by a considerable change in atmosphere," Michael Duffy told journalists after meeting top European Economic Community officials.

This had yet to show in specifics, but Duffy said he was more optimistic than he had expected after talks with EEC Commissioner for Trade and External Relations Frans Andriessen and Farm Commissioner Ray MacSharry's chief advisers.

A four-year round of talks under the auspices of the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) world trade forum is due to end next December in Brussels.

The talks almost broke down in a row over farm issues in December 1988 and Duffy said the shock of that had helped concentrate participants' minds on the prospect of catastrophic trade wars unless they shifted positions.

Although the United States and European Economic Community, which both use subsidies to help farm exports, were still far apart, Duffy said he had sensed real willingness to compromise for the first time.

Move to settle possible criminal charges Alaska oil spill deals in the works

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Feb 14, (UPI): The US Department of Justice is considering a plea bargain deal with Exxon Corp. to settle possible criminal charges from the nation's worst oil spill and to create an Exxon-funded trust to restore spill damage, according to a US government source.

In complex behind-the-scenes negotiations, federal authorities are bargaining with Exxon over the company's potential criminal liability arising out of the spill from the Exxon Valdez on March 24 in Alaska's Prince William Sound.

Federal officials also are working on a separate agreement with the state of Alaska to create a trust fund for the huge cash settlement anticipated from Exxon in a plea bargain.

The prospect of a plea bargain between Exxon and the Justice Department was confirmed by United States International through a confidential government source.

There are independent negotiations between the US government and Alaska to create an oil spill restoration fund with money obtained from Exxon. Alaska Attorney-General Douglas Bailey said in an interview, confirming those talks.

No final agreements have been produced from either set of negotiations.

Alaska is not engaged in negotiations with Exxon, Bailey said.

But Bailey said Alaska was "close to an agreement" with the federal government "about a joint arrangement for litigation with Exxon" that also involves restoration funds.

Efforts to establish a joint federal-state trust fund for an Alaska oil spill restoration programme — funded by whatever money could be obtained from Exxon through litigation or settlement — have been in the works for months, Bailey said.

However, pressure to create such a trust has appeared to increase as a federal grand jury criminal probe of the oil spill drew towards conclusion and plea bargaining began.

Following the Exxon spill, the FBI began investigating the Justice Department opened an environmental crimes office in Anchorage and a federal grand jury was empanelled. The federal probe was discussed during recent pretrial hearings for Joseph Hazelwood, the skipper of the Exxon Valdez when it ran aground on Bligh Reef, spilling nearly 11 million gallons (42 million litres) of crude oil.

Expat finance New look at an old topic

Tony Mustafa Overseas Financial Services

AS discussed briefly in a previous article, domestic property seems to hold a very strong appeal for expatriates and, to my mind, often unjustifiably so. The main reason for this appeal is that we have seen consistent price rises over the past ten to fifteen years — there have been temporary falls, of course, but the trend nearly everywhere (except East Texas) has been a healthy upwards one.

Overall, the year on year compound growth rate has been about 11 per cent or 12 per cent — prices doubling in about six years or thereabouts. (Price doubles in six years at a compound growth rate of 12.3 per cent). Well, now, that does not appear at first sight anything to get wildly excited about, since you can get reason why it is so exciting is a little factor called leverage or gearing. Nearly all of us indulge in it and, for those who don't understand how it works, here goes.

Now to get down to a case study. I will take London as the property site, though it could just as well be Sydney, Stockholm or Scotland, A., worried about the exorbitant house prices, decided to buy last year, although he doesn't expect to live in Britain for another six or, perhaps, seven years. The house choice was limited as he only had £20,000 available, so he settled on a flat in West London, price £150,000. He has borrowed £120,000 on a twenty-year mortgage, the capital to be repaid by a build-up type Endowment policy. His outlays are: (i) Interest @ 13.75% on £120,000: £16,500 p.a. (ii) Endowment Premium: £2,000 p.a. Total: £18,500 p.a.

He, fortunately, has a tenant who pays rent of £1,000 a month. So his shortfall is £4,100 p.a. — (plus expenses, which I will ignore, since they are not relevant to this argument).

Suddenly his furry godmother, in the shape of a short, dark-haired Turk (from London), appears and offers him a re-mortgage at 6 per cent. The sum now looks like this:

(i) Interest @ 6% on £120,000: £7,200 (ii) Endowment: nil Total: £7,200

Now he has to replace his re-mortgage policy, i.e. the endowment policy with something else and, wise man that he is, opts for a ten-year Investment Plan denominated in Pounds — a basket of currencies made up of sterling, dollars, yen and Deutsche marks, — and not being of a greedy disposition, he puts in the whole of the excess of £7,200 per year. He is still better off to the tune of £4,100 per year and, at this rate of funding, the years later than he will be an accumulated fund of £141,500 in his Investment Plan. This assumes the rather modest growth rate of 12 per cent p.a. in the underlying units and, should this work out at 15 per cent p.a., then the fund would be £170,200.

In the first case, he could repay the loan after nine years and one month and, in the second case, after 8 years and six months.

However, A. is a very cautious sort of agent, and he would prefer not to be exposed to currency risks for that long a period, so he decides to keep his outgoings the same as before he did the swap, so he now puts the £11,300 p.a. into a new investment Plan. At the 12 per cent growth rate, he can clear the loan in 7 3/4 years and, at 15 per cent growth he can clear it off in seven years exactly. Hey presto, he's now going home to a mortgage free house.

Since the repayment is in four of the world's strongest currencies, it is unlikely that there will be any shortfall in the repayment fund, and even if it must be run for the full ten years, he is still much better off than previously.

A much more likely circumstance is that sterling will weaken against the currency basket, thus requiring a higher input. This may be offset by rising rental income, by an increased input from A., or by a reduced input into the "basket", this latter option causing the repayment date to be deferred, of course.

There is yet another course of action open to our A. which is to keep on his loan of £120,000 once he has returned, pay the interest thereon (£7,200 p.a.) and allow his fund to go on rolling up, tax free, offshore until he is ready to retire. Thereafter, he repays the loan and draws a tax-free income from the surplus which has accumulated in the interim period.

Is the risk worthwhile? I would say it, but then I can not make the decisions for anyone but myself. As in any form of financial planning, it is important to weigh up all possible eventualities and to consider what escape lanes are, should things go wrong. Maximum flexibility should be built in from onset and here, since the loan can be continued indefinitely, maximum use can be made of the tax-free offshore growth potential inherent in the Investment Plan, which, in its basket form, can be left to grow to meet the repayment need in due course.

With the free movement of capital within the EEC countries likely to come into effect in 1992, the spectre of the reversion of exchange control seems unlikely to appear but, even then, it is possible to borrow Swiss francs from Britain, Australian or other European banks at a similar rate of interest.

In fact, it is essential, where the property is intended for rental, that the mortgage be domiciled in the same country as otherwise it is likely that the rental income "onshore" will not be allowed to be offset against "offshore" loan interest. "This need not affect the currency of the loan nor the rate of interest charged!"

Well that concludes my series of articles. For further information, write to c/o OFS, P.O. Box 18544, Farwaniya 81006, Kuwait. Telephone 4742000 ext. 410.

2-year freeze on wages, prices Sweeping austerity package

STOCKHOLM, Feb 14, (UPI): Sweden's social democratic minority government yesterday shocked the country, announcing a sweeping austerity package which the opposition dubbed the declaration of an economic state of emergency.

In a 1990-1991 proposal put before parliament Thursday, Finance Minister Kjell-Olof Feldt called for a two-year freeze on wages, prices and municipal taxes, mandatory arbitration and a ban on strikes.

Wildcat strikers would be forced to pay 5000 krona (\$800) in fines, and companies will pay allowances during the first two weeks of employee illness in a measure designed to save the state nine billion krona (\$1.5 billion).

"If parliament turns down any of the suggestions, the government will resign," Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson said Thursday in an attempt to bulldoze the measures through a reluctant house.

"The social democrats won't administer a deteriorating economy. We will not accept our suggestions being felled in parliament," said Carlsson.

"We're rushing at full speed into a cost crisis and we suggest the package is introduced immediately," Feldt told parliament Thursday.

"It is tough medicine and a deviation from the Swedish model of free wage negotiations, but it is necessary," he added.

"It is impossible to have wage increases of ten to 20 per cent when production only increases by one per cent. If the merry-go-round continues, the wage market will end up in anarchy," Feldt said adding Sweden's situation was comparable to that of Britain's "winter of discontent" in 1979.

"Then wild cat strikes and a chaotic labour market caused a reaction and gave the power to the conservatives," Feldt said.

Feldt said he wanted a parliamentary vote on the package Feb 13, but the government is forced to win support for the package piecemeal among the five opposition parties who heavily criticised the bill Thursday.

"The government is in panic and is pulling the emergency brake. They should get off the train instead. Resign," said Ingemar Eliasson, spokesman for the Liberal Party.

"These proposals are like the declaration of a state of emergency," said Margot Ingvardsson of the communists VPK.

Conservative party spokesman Lars Tibbisson described the package as "the old form of East-bloc politics."

"While those of the East bloc are taking off the socialist strait-jacket and introducing market economies, the Swedish government is going the other way," Tibbisson said.

Sweden is fighting one of Europe's highest inflation rates at 6.7 per cent while several unions have demanded major wage increases. Inflation for 1990 is forecast at up to nine per cent and latest figures from Sweden's department of statistics show industrial wages rose 10.5 per cent last year.

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US, Soviet negotiators optimistic about new trade accord

WASHINGTON, Feb 14, (AP): US and Soviet trade negotiators expressed satisfaction today with the progress made in their first round of talks aimed at wiping away nearly a half-century of trade friction between the two superpowers.

Deputy US Trade Representative Julius Katz said he was confident a new trade agreement can be negotiated in time for President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to sign at their summit meeting in June.

"I don't have any doubt that we can get the job done," he told reporters.

"There was nothing that came up that presents an insuperable obstacle."

Chief Soviet negotiator Yuriy Chumakov also expressed optimism, although he said more progress could have been made if the Americans had been able to present a draft treaty for review during the two days of talks.

The Soviets did present a draft document for discussion.

"From our perspective, we think these negotiations have gone fairly well," he said. "At least each side got a feeling about what the opposite side expects from it."

Katz said that the next round of discussions had been tentatively scheduled for the last week in February with a follow-up round of talks in Vienna on March 20.

Negotiation of a wide-ranging trade agreement was a primary goal established during the Bush-Gorbachev summit last December in Malta.

The Bush administration hopes that normalising trade with the Soviet Union will provide economic support to the sweeping political reforms Gorbachev has instituted.

US officials predict two-way trade between the two countries could double or even triple over the next three years with a new agreement, although private economists doubt that assessment, given the numerous troubles plaguing the Soviet economy.

In the first 11 months of 1989, US exports to the Soviet Union, primarily grain shipments, totalled \$3.82 billion, while Soviet sales in the United States, primarily of petroleum and consumer items such as vodka and furs, totalled \$658 million.

The trade treaty would be used to grant the Soviet Union "Most Favoured Nation status," qualifying it for the lowest tariffs available to any other country. Soviet exports into the United States currently bear duties as much as 10 times higher than imports from other nations.

By one estimate, the price of Soviet vodka could drop by \$1.25 per bottle with the lower tariffs.

The higher duties are a result of the 1974 Jackson-Vanik amendment, which Congress passed in retaliation for the refusal of the Soviet government to allow Soviet Jews and other dissidents to leave the country.

As negotiators in Washington focused on a new Soviet trade treaty, other administration officials were preparing for meetings today and tomorrow in Paris, where the United States will seek to forge a co-ordinated strategy with its Western allies for easing curbs on high technology exports to Eastern Europe.

The discussions will be held under the auspices of the 17-nation co-ordinating committee on multilateral export controls, known as Cocom. This group sets the rules for selling goods with possible military applications to communist nations.

Last month, the Bush administration said it supported increased sales of advanced computers, telecommunications equipment and machine tools to each European nation that has rejected their communist governments.

The administration plan calls for eased curbs on high technology sales to take place in stages, with Hungary and Poland to be the first countries to benefit. But restrictions would still be imposed on the sale of the products to the Soviet Union and spot inspections would ensure that goods intended for Eastern Europe were not later shipped to the Soviets.

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Peace walk in central Calcutta



Satyajit Ray (centre) opening the festival

Indian Film

India film festival: some good, some bad, mostly poor memories

By Firoze Rangoonwalla
Arab Times correspondent

ONCE again, the international film festival of India has come and gone. While we are still recovering from the joys and sorrows, rewards and lapses of the IFFI '90 at Calcutta, it's time to take stock and learn some long-term lessons for future festivals.

Without the competition section and peacock awards, this fete was too big to handle and control. And the net gain, in the final analysis, was the viewing of about 25 excellent, memorable films from all over the globe and its various fascinating countries. The promotion and sale of a few Indian films was a further gain. Bringing together of film people of the world was another advantage. But not much, indeed, considering the size of the festival.

An appraisal made by the fete director, Mrs. Urmila Gupta took justifiable pride in the facts and figures. About 170 foreign films from 44 countries and 42 Indian films, apart from dozens of documentaries, were screened during the festival. The foreign delegates numbered 191 from 31 countries and were given five-star hospitality. They included film makers, artists, scribes and directors of other international festivals. The Indian film industry sent 1600 delegates from three centres, (who were only given an entry card). About 350 Indian critics and reporters got professional facilities. There were also delegates of film organisations, official or otherwise, from different provinces. The rest of the crowd comprised mem-

bers of film societies and general cine-goers.

The six shows per day for delegates and press were held in the three theatres of the Nandan complex, which is the pride of West Bengal, apart from daily public shows at night theatres in Calcutta, including Sohrab Modi's old cinema Minerva, now renovated and named by the state government as Chaplin, the only one in the world to have that name. Other activities included press conferences, (three per day), seminars, an open forum every afternoon, a lecture on Charlie Chaplin by David Robinson, a dinner at the new Taj Bengal, a lunch at Tollygunge Club, a tea party by governor T.V. Rajeshwar and a farewell dinner at Great Eastern Hotel. There were even sight-seeing trips, a ride on the superb tube (Metro) railway and cultural shows of dances etc.

How could a delegate cope up with so much and what was the need? They called it a festive spirit when actress Dimple Navel stood in the crowded theatre to see a foreign film. Actually it was just bad organising. So many free passes had been issued to all kinds of people that the genuine delegate had to fight for his seat and at times even suffer police lathi-charge, as it happened at the showing of *Sex Lies & Videotapes*. Most outsiders were just keen to see "hot" films and the sex stuff. And there was plenty for them, in the form of frequent removal of clothes by women and men, suggested acts of sex and various postures of nudity. World cinema is just crazy about man's oldest



obsession and women's oldest profession. And now India is also not lagging behind. At one place, when the film was suddenly changed, cine-goers set fire to booking counters and damaged the chairs of the theatre, apart from heads being broken.

This is not to underrate the better side of the festival with some excellent entries, which normally never come to India. There were at least 25 excellent films from which ten were big award-winners from other festivals, like *Lend-*

scape in the Mist, Black Rain, Rain Man, Pelle the Conqueror, Sex Lies and Videotapes etc.

Where did Indian cinema stand in the midst of this deluge? The Indians never went to see these films but the foreigners did and they also negotiated prices for them in the Market Section. The Indian Panorama show-cased 21 films of directors in different languages, some of whom were big names and some new. The section opened with the Parsi film *Percy*, by Parvez Merwanji making his direction debut. Then there

were Mrinal Sen's *Ek Din Achanak*, Aparna Sen's *Sati* Buddhadeb Dutt's *Bagh Bahadur*, Kumar Shahni's *Khayal-Gatha*, Govind Nihalani's *Jazira*, all topped by Satyajit Ray's *Ganashatru*. There were also new films in Marathi, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam.

All were average films without formulas but having nothing great. Aparna's idea of getting Shabana Azmi married to a tree in *Sati* was not accepted even by foreigners looking for the Indian exotic mystery. The film set in last century showed a dumb girl treated badly by the family and finally left to die under the tree. Shabana remained totally artificial and ruined the conviction of the film which called for a fresh young face. *Jazira* from Ibsen's play was totally theatrical and its story not relevant to Indian conditions. Ray did better with Ibsen's play *Enemy of the People*, though with a half-hearted ending. *Khayal-gatha* was disjointed and abstract, not making any point and dwelling often on the classical "raga" and dance, which became boring. *Ek Din Achanak* was too much like Mrinal's past films. *Percy* had good atmosphere but not much to say about the realities and problems of Paris, the smallest community in India.

Running parallel to the artistic Panorama was the section of Mainstream Cinema. This sugar-coated label is given to all those commercial masala movies, of film tycoons who want to have a finger in the festival pie. Otherwise, films like *Tridev*, *Chandni* and *Ram Lakhan* would never find place in a

high-calibre international festival. This section was inaugurated with *Tridev* and the speakers debated the meaning of "mainstream." Present on the dais were G.P. Sippy, the loud-mouthed trade leader and Gulshan Rai, apart from Shakti Samanta, Chandrasekhar, Ramanand Sagar etc. The Bombay film world did not show much interest and Mahesh Bhatt condemned the festival without attending it.

Only a few Bombay stars glittered at the inauguration held in a huge stadium. There were the supporters of the new government, Shatrughan Sinha and Raj Babbar, with Shabana Azmi, Deepti Naval and a few starlets. Satyajit Ray lit the lamp, helped by Bengal's Debashri Roy and Amala Shankar (wife of late Uday Shankar). The Bengali stars Prasenjit, Tapas Pal, Moon Moon etc. stole the flash-bulb 'light' at the parties. The biggest let-down was by Ashok Kumar who did not attend though he was given the honour of a retrospective of his old films and brochures brought out on him.

For the rest, the Bengali Cinema also celebrated its seven decades with a parallel festival, an exhibition of photos and a souvenir. Calcutta's live-wire film society Cine Central did some unique things for the festival. They organised a peace walk for better cinema led by five children dressed as Chaplin, a superb stamp exhibition on world cinema, postal covers with movie photos of yore. And they even gave Chaplin award and "Father Panchali" award to the veterans of the industry.

Star

Shatrughan Sinha: not tolerate my... for three hours... people who have... tolerating me for...

Dimple: After... floated to the... watching myself... (fortably) from... ted to go out and... woke up. This was... marriage period... Khanna.

Asha Chandrar: should marry... students who... land or property... from me and...

Rekha: At one... I love kids and... my mother insist... fied.

Ranjit: I never... any "bhav". People... over-friendly with... Amitabh etc. But... need anyone to build...

Anil Kapoor: Acting... chan has spoilt... Sri Devi. They are... female Bachchan... Big B's airs... achievements to...

Kammar Gaurav: I want... those heroes at... give me more time... to be a big star. I want... "somebody" becoming a somebody...

Vinod Khanna: We... report late for... Everybody does. So...



Vinod Khanna: late

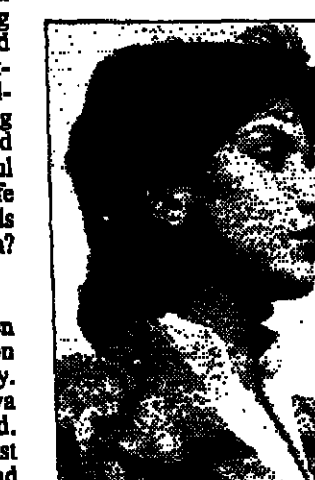
children of her own. But what does Shabana know about kids? She has never played such a role, nor does she has a child.

Empty words

Whatever happened to the much-publicised equipment of Gulshan Kumar (Super Cassettes) for transferring video tapes to celluloid films? He had threatened to do it on a mass scale and bring a revolution in the industry. But he could not even transfer his own *Lal Dugatta Mahal Ka*. And he started shooting his *Jenna Teri Gall Mein* on 16-mm rather than video tape for easy transfer and theatrical release.

Starry ways

Suresh Oberoi starring in a French film *Monica*, *Monica* shown at the Calcutta festival, tried to adopt starry ways of Bombay. He threw a private party at the hotel where he stayed as a delegate. The festival authorities asked him to quit. And the guests said that the film on the theme of re-incarnation was plain lousy.



Shabana: new role

Clownish Doom

If action fails, why not try comedy? With this in mind, poor gullible Dharmendra allowed himself to become a joker for Anil Sharma's *Tahelka*. He was made to wear a shocking red tie, top hat, Chaplin moustache and a foolish look. It seems the director wants to say that the He-man has failed and create a He-clown?

Star Words

Among the heros who make the maximum use of abuses, slangs and four-letter words, the top names are Dimple, Sonam and Amrita. (Sonam does it in Hindi-Urdu).



Dharmendra: new image

Checked out:

Archana Pura Singh finishing her spell with *Kaka (Rajesh)* after being chucked out by Anju Mahendra, tried to latch on to producer Pahlaj Nihalani. She got fat contracts in all his films. And she also nearly wrecked his family life.

Gala time

Danny had a gala time with industry girls including Parveen Babi, Kim etc. And then he married fellow Sikhimese Gawra, saying he fulfilled the wishes of his dying mother. The poor bride did not object to his colourful past. Now he sends away wife and child for long periods back home to far-off Sikkim?

New role

Shabana Azmi has been appointed as the Chairperson of Children's Film Society. She takes over from Jaya Bachchan who resigned. Industry wits say that at least Jaya was qualified, as she had played *Guddi* and has two

Chris learns to love aliens from outer space

The Academy Award-winning star relieves an author's true-life nightmare in an out-of-this-world movie called *Communion*. The film, based on a bestselling book, tells how a man grew to love the terrifying aliens who used him for surgical experiments

Aliens, with out-of-this-world faces and huge black eyes, arrived from nowhere one night to terrorise an author in his lonely cabin. Over the months the author, Whitley Streiber, believed that he met the monsters again and again. He lived a nightmare peopled with aliens and haunted by flashes of horror.

Once, after dreaming he had been subjected to an out-of-this-world operation, his wife Anne found an injection mark behind his ear.

Now Streiber's living nightmare is over. And a beautiful dream fortune has followed in its alien footsteps. First he wrote a bestselling best-seller about his experiences. And now the story has been made into a movie, *Communion*, starring Academy award winning actor, Christopher Walken and Lindsay Crouse.

Streiber first met the aliens when he was abducted from his bed in his country cabin. He had no clear memory of this, but he had obviously been deeply disturbed by it as he became bad-tempered and paranoid. Eventually, in order to save his marriage and his sanity, Streiber visited a psychiatrist. Under hypnosis the full extent of what had happened to him came out.

He refused to accept his newly-found recollections as the truth, but agrees to go to an encounter group of people who have gone through similar experiences.

Unlike him, they believe they have been victimised by aliens. Streiber, still doubting this idea, tries to find another more logical explanation for his fears. But then he discovers that his seven-year-old son, Andrew, has also been visited by these other-world beings.

Streiber, in desperation, sets out to his isolated cabin for a confrontation with the visitors. There he has a final meeting with them that proves to him they are not dangerous, and are actually more beautiful than they are frightening.

The film's director, Philippe Mora, said: "The film is closest to a psychological thriller, or a mystery. It takes place within a man's mind, and you go through his inner questioning every step along the way."

When his encounters had come to an end, Streiber wrote a hugely successful book about his experiences. *Communion* was on the New York Times Best-seller list for 36 weeks and was the third best-seller of 1988.

Christopher Walken first shot to fame after his Oscar-winning performance in Michael Cimino's *The Deer Hunter*. He is no stranger to paranormal storylines after his role in Stephen King's *The Dead Zone*.

Lindsay Crouse, who plays Anne Streiber, was nominated for an Oscar for her role in *Places of the Heart*. Her other screen credits include *The Verdict* and *All the President's Men*.



Christopher Walken and his screen wife Anne, played by Lindsay Crouse, in a scene from *Communion*.



Walken trying to find out another cause of his distressing visions.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

NICOTINE ISN'T SAME AS NICOTINIC ACID

Question: A longtime friend says he has good authority for a statement that the nicotine in smoke is good for lowering cholesterol. He claims he read this in a medical magazine, but can't find the clipping to prove it. Do you have any information that can help us figure this out?

Answer: You have to be careful when you read material about health and medicine. Many words seem alike, but are quite different. This is a real case of mistaken identity.

It's probable that your friend was reading about nicotinic acid. Although the name is similar, it has nothing to do either with smoke or the nicotine found in tobacco. Nicotinic acid also is called niacin, as well as vitamin B-3.

While niacin is commonly used to treat a vitamin deficiency disease called pellagra, it's also known to be effective in lowering the cholesterol levels in the blood. Niacin is found naturally in meats, eggs, milk and dairy products, and is not lost from the food during the cooking process. The recommended dietary allowance (RDA) for an adult male is about 18 mg per day, while women should have 13 mg daily (unless they are breast-feeding, in which case they should have 18 mg daily as well).

To treat pellagra, doses in the range of 300 to 1,000 milligrams are used. However, some people take much higher doses when using niacin to treat high cholesterol, as much as three grams a day (that's 3,000 milligrams), and at that level, side effects are common. These side effects include flushing, a redness of the skin, especially the face and neck, and headaches.

Although niacin is available over the counter as a vitamin supplement, it should only be used under the supervision of a physician when high doses are required for cholesterol control. Your friend won't have to search for his clipping now. His claim, based upon a bit of misreading, has just gone up in smoke. Question: At age 29, I have a pea-sized lump above my navel which hurts when pressed. A friend, an

emergency medical technician, suggested that it is a "strangulated navel" that surgery could correct. Could you please explain the term and give me the idea as to what could be done?

Answer: Whenever a loop of bowel, a bit of tissue, or organ protrudes through an abnormal opening, the abdominal wall in this case, it is called a "hernia." If the blood supply to the protruding tissues becomes cut off because of swelling or constriction, it is called "strangulated." This is a serious condition, for if it is not corrected rapidly, the tissue may become gangrenous.

An ordinary hernia through the navel is known as an "umbilical" hernia. It is most frequently seen in newborns, rarely becomes strangulated, and closes by itself after several years, rarely requiring surgery. If this hernia exists in an adult, it could become strangulated, and depending upon the size of the opening, could be closed using simple surgical techniques.

Another condition that can develop in hernias is a situation where the loop of bowel gets "stuck" in the opening and can not be pushed back into the abdomen. This is classified as an "incarcerated" hernia, and may or may not be strangulated.

As with so many questions, the answer can only be determined after a careful examination. It is possible that in your case little need be done, as the hernia seems quite small. However, I should advise you not to let the condition go any longer without real medical attention, for the results could be serious.

Americans are living longer! But the older population doesn't always understand the health changes that occur with aging. Dr Bruckheim's new booklet, *Aging — Learn to enjoy the inevitable*, explains how the body changes, and how a positive outlook plus some preventive measures can improve the quality of life. To order your copy, send \$2.95 to Aging, P.O. Box 4406, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4406. Make cheques payable to Newspaperbooks.

Happy birthday



Blesson Mammen turned 7 on February 11.



Alwin D'Souza turns 9 today, February 15.



Saher Hanif turned 6 on February 10



Liju George turns 6 on February 20.



Lavina Fernandes turns 8 on February 18



Dan Varghese turns 1 on February 16



Pepper D'Souza February 15



Keith Concessao turns 5 today, February 15



Sharon Pereira turns 6 today, February 15



Waheed Ur Rahman turns 7 today, February 15



Swetha and Smitha Bala (twins) turn 7 on February 16

Changes

"I WONDER what Kuwait would be like?" thought Meena. She must have repeated this line to herself at least a hundred times in this past few weeks. She was deep in thought when suddenly she was roused by the voice of the air-hostess.

"Would you like some juice?" she asked. Meena nodded. This was her first aeroplane ride but she was not enjoying herself very much. She looked at her uncle asleep next to her snoring loudly. Meena was on her way to Kuwait to stay with her uncle and aunt.

All her life she had lived in a small town close to a village in India. Her parents died in a terrible accident a few weeks ago and as she had no relatives except for her uncle and aunt, she had to come to Kuwait.

She wished Ajay was with her. Ajay, her brother, was 18 and as he had to complete his studies, he could not come. Their journey came to an end.

Her uncle took her by her hand and they completed the airport formalities. Her aunt was waiting at the airport. Her uncle and aunt were very kind, but Meena could not help feeling a little afraid.

When they were in the car, Meena looked out of the window and began thinking. Her friends had stared at her when she told them she was going to Kuwait.

"It's a rich country," Rita said. "They have machines to do all their work!" Sumita remarked. "And Indians don't care about India. They never come back" were Sanjay's words.

Again she was roused — this time by her aunt. "I hope you will like staying with us, Meena dear," she said. Her uncle and aunt lived in an area called Salmiya. She entered their flat which was very beautiful.

"This will be your room Meena," her aunt said, opening one of the doors. Her own room! Meena could not believe it. In India they had a small flat with a single room in which she lived with her father, mother and Ajay.

The next few days her aunt and uncle took her to visit many places in Kuwait. The Towers, Entertainment City, beaches, parks etc. Soon she started school. Meena enjoyed herself but she was not exactly happy. This was seen in her letters to Ajay. It is very strange and new. The parks here are big and have lots of rides. Quite different from our town fair with only two rides.

"It is very hot and people stay at home most of the time. You have to go everywhere in a car. I have started school and made some friends. My studies are fine. But I miss Rita, Sumita, Sanjay and the rest. Here, we don't have fields close by to play in. Children just watch television and play video games."

As the weeks passed and Meena got used to the changes as she called them. But she still was not sure she liked everything. One day her teacher told the class about an Indian cultural programme coming up in the near future, to her surprise, Meena was chosen to represent her school and to perform a traditional dance of her hometown in India. She was thrilled.

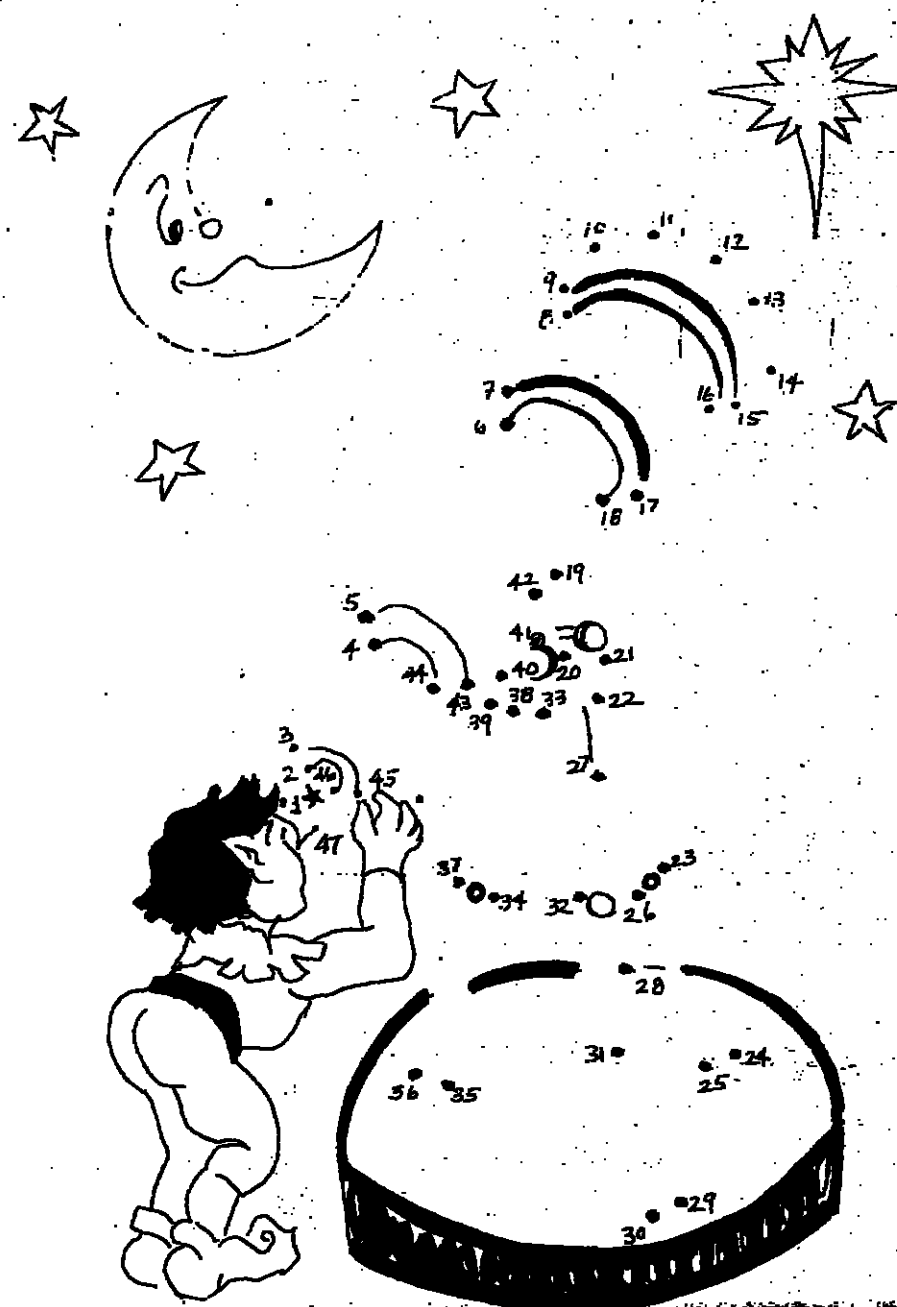
The cultural programme was a great success. That night in bed something dawned on her and she wasn't unhappy any more. Her aunt told her husband one night after Meena went to sleep: "Meena has changed after the cultural programme. In the beginning I was not sure she was happy but now I am quite certain she is. I wonder what it was that changed her."

Her aunt would have known had she read the letter Meena wrote to Ajay a few days later.

"... The cultural programme was very good. I think I enjoyed it more than anyone else because I realised that people had not forgotten our motherland. There may be a lot of changes but people have not forgotten their roots. I am quite happy now."

Maria Chinwala,
New Indian School.

Join the dots



Does it work?

Zahed M. Ali

Variety

VIDEO CORNER

A new vogue for sequels, and '60s movements

By Shaun Seekins

IN Mickey Rourke's latest film he plays Johnny Handsome a grossly deformed convict who is offered a new life by an idealistic surgeon. After several operations, Johnny not only gets handsome but a pardon as well. Much to the consternation of world weary policeman Morgan Freeman.

The rest of the film more or less proves Morgan right as Johnny seeks vengeance on Ellen Barkin and Lance Henriksen, both incorrigible criminals. Plenty of action and violence including a spectacular hold-up make for fast moving entertainment.

Family Business stars Sean Connery, Dustin Hoffman and Matthew Broderick as three generations of a New York family. Hoffman does his best to keep his son from falling under the influence of charming crook Connery.

Having found little success with the action genre with *Road House* Patrick Swayze keeps things brawny with *Next of Kin*, a cop drama about a Chicago lawman who comes to rely on the tracking skills of his Appalachian kinfolk when his brother is murdered.

There seems to be a new vogue for films based on the civil rights movements of the '60s. *Heart of Dixie* tells the story of three young women attending the fictional Randolph University immediately preceding the forced integration of the school. *Magie Delacour* (Aly Sheedy) is a budding journalist who begins to question the status quo. Her two best friends are Delia June Curry (Virginia Madsen) a ravishing

blonde belle, whose idea of bliss is owning a plantation and Aikeen Reed (Phoebe Gates), an independent young woman who drinks from "coloured" water fountains and dreams of moving to Greenwich Village. These three are forced to face up to the realities of life when violence breaks out at a concert and the tension between black and white groups comes to a climax.

Wilt is producer Brian Eastman's screen adaptation of Tom Sharpe's book. Griff Rhys Jones puts in a restrained performance as the placid Henry Wilt, a liberal studies lecturer at a local technical college whose only pleasures are walking the dog and fantasising about murdering his domineering wife Eva (Allison Steadman).

The farce begins when he gets entangled in a drug bust led by pig-headed, ambitious inspector Flint (Mel Smith). Then at a party given by Eva's pretenentious friends Sally and Hugh, he becomes unwittingly and publicly involved with a rubber doll which he ends up burying on a building site.

When Eva disappears in disgust, the luckless Wilt finds himself pursued by Flint, determined to nail his man for the murder of his wife and thus secure his own promotion. *Immediate Family* stars Glenn Close and James Woods as a conventional couple in every respect but one. They have been married ten years, are successful in their jobs, with a nice house and a dog. They have everything except a child. When an adoption agency brings them together with a young couple it seems their problem is solved. But the bonds between the

mother and her child are not as easily severed as the umbilical cord.

Mary Stuart Masterson and Kevin Dillon give finely measured performances as teenage parents who must face the responsibility of their first adult decision while Glenn Close and James Woods reflect every emotional nuance of the adopting parents whose fulfilment hangs in the balance.

Among the other Columbia films that are available now that the company has been allowed *Ghostbusters II* and *Karate Kid III* with many more to follow. Its been five years since the original *Ghostbusters* and the new offering has the entire original team. The film starts after the parapsychological gang has split up. Ray (Dan Aykroyd) and Winston (Ernie Hudson) are unhappily reduced to making personal appearances at parties for nine-year-old "Yuppie Larvae" and keeping Ecto-1 from falling apart, while Peter (Bill Murray) hosts a chat show called "World of the Psychic".

New Yorkers had put the *Ghostbusters* out of their minds until former client Dana Barrett (Sigourney Weaver) summons the team to investigate strange happenings affecting her baby's carriage. There seems little doubt that the demons will be routed, watch the film to make sure!

Karate Kid III also appears five years after the original. The only really new innovation is the introduction of a really unspeakable villain to try to put some new life into the formula. Daniel (Ralph Macchio) and his mentor Mr Miyagi have retur-



Mickey Rourke and Ellen Barkin in *Johnny Handsome*

ned from their adventures in Okinawa only to run into further trouble. Daniel is virtually blackmailed into defending his title against a violent new opponent, described as "Karate's Bad Boy" when his plans to open a bonzai tree shop come to nothing.

Above films by courtesy of the Video Club, Salmiya, Tel 5724372, Salmiya Complex, Farwaniya and Fintas Towers.

A sensual voice like a cool night breeze

Pop

Hugh Harris, *Words for Our Years* (Capitol, C4-48833)

Let's hope Hugh Harris doesn't mind comparisons because he's being bombarded with them.

Prince, Terence Trent D'Arby, Roland Gift of Fine Young Cannibals and Marvin Gaye will all come to mind when one listens to *Words for Years*, but the comparisons are all complimentary.

This recording debut for Harris, 25, the British-born son of American immigrants, is stunning in its maturity. Harris, who only took for Robert Palmer's *Woke up Laughing* and plays many of the instruments.

The sound generally is understated (but sometimes eerie and spooky) synth-pop that lifts the nuances and quivers of Harris's sensual voice like a cool night breeze.

The album's highlights are *Alice*, which Harris gives a rock 'n' roll sense of urgency, *Love Kicks*, a breathy, moody tune, *Mr Woman Lovers Mrs Man*, an odd look at a contemporary relationship, and *Rhythm of Life*, in which he ranges from a soul sound to something straight out of church.

The quirky, poetic quality of the lyrics makes them interesting, although like D'Arby and Prince, you can count on Harris to drift out of orbit occasionally. A case in point is *Home Sweet Home*, outwardly agile reptile, *Don't Let He Come*, turn your love into a gyle, terminal cabaret.

Jazz

John Lewis: *The Garden of Delight/Delany's Dilemma* (Emarcy, 834 478-1)

John Lewis, musical director of the modern jazz quintet, is jazz piano's reigning master of the single-

note melodic line. The technique, associated more with guitar, may be less evident as a keyboard style today because it requires such precise phrasing. In other words, sloppy players, beware!

Lewis has no such problems. His compositions, improvisations and touch are filled with a restrained elegance and dancing notes. He is joined here by Marc Johnson and Howard Collins in a celebration of the piano-guitar-bass format best exemplified in the past by the Art Tatum, Nat Cole and Oscar Peterson trios.

In Lewis's capable hands, there is more of a chamber-music feel to jazz not unlike the MJQ sound. All eight tunes are beautiful — six Lewis originals plus Charlie Parker's "Billie's Bounce" and the classic *Cool Jazz*, *Chesnut*, *I'll Remember April*. Give this one five stars.

Country 'n' western
The O'Kanes, *Imagine That* (Columbia 45131) composed of O'Hara and Kieren Kane, have had all the critical acclaim they can stand. What they need now is a super hit that will make them instantly recognizable.

Commercial success is not easy to predict but the O'Kanes have put together another album that is superb.

First off, O'Hara and Kane, who co-wrote all the selections, have shades this one more *Country*. Fans will notice this on the first cut, *Why Should I*, which utilizes more traditional instrumentation.

The O'Kanes' first boost. The harmony on *Imagine That* without question sets them apart.

Fans will also go for *Nobody Wins*, *Diddy All Night Long*, *Will You Travel Down This Road With Me*, *Is the Road With Me*, *Is the Party Over*, and *This Ain't Love*.

Entertainment Briefs

Cartoon glasnost: The end of the cold war has inspired the formation of a new Soviet-American jointly owned animation facility in Moscow.

Film Roman, a California-based animation studio that produces cartoon series, specials and commercials — including the *Garfield* (the Cat) projects — announced it has signed an agreement with the Soviets to open a joint company.

The USSR's American-Soviet Koinitiative (ASK), in conjunction with Film Roman, will open a 10,000-square-foot studio this spring to be called ASK-Roman animation studios and that will employ some 300 animators to attract a wide variety of US and international projects.

Voices of 'Captain Planet': Turner Broadcasting System has signed Tom Cruise, Richard Gere, Ed Asner and Whoopi Goldberg to supply voices for an environment-oriented cartoon series.

The performers and others will lend their voices to "Captain Planet and the planetars" for 26 half-hour episodes to be distributed by Turner Programme Services.

"Captain Planet and the planetars," concept that originated with Ted Turner, will battle villains out to destroy earth.

Godfather III: George Hamilton will join the cast of Francis Ford Coppola's latest adventures of The Corleone Family.

Hamilton will fly to Rome's Cinecitta Studios where the second sequel to the *Godfather* series is filming with Al Pacino starring in *The Godfather III*, along with Diane Keaton, Tala Shire, Andy Garcia, Bridget Fonda and Eli Wallach.

Hamilton will be seen in the role of B.J. Harrison, financial advisor to Don Michael Corleone in the continuing story of Mario Uzo's fictional mafia family.

Hogan's hero: Australia's Paul Hogan will be reunited with his "Crocodile Dundee" co-star Linda Kozlowski in *Almost an Angel*.

Paramount studios has acquired worldwide distribution of the love story-comedy, which currently is shooting under the direction of Jon Cornell from a screenplay by Hogan.

In *Almost an Angel*, Hogan is seen as an oddball burglar who recovers from a near-fatal accident believing he has been returned to earth as an unorthodox angel.

Italian royal relics

To bury or not to ... is the bitter question

ROME. (Reuter): Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti's attempts to lay to rest a painful relic of Italy's past have revived the bitterness of one of the most divisive periods of his country's history.

Andreotti suggested earlier this month that there were no longer any obstacles to burying Italy's last two kings, Victor Emmanuel III and Umberto II in this country.

"Personally, I think the time is ripe in the sense that the situation no longer causes problems... I don't believe there will be any objections," Andreotti said in a television interview.

But he sparked a storm by sug-

gesting that Victor Emmanuel, king during the dark days of Fascist rule, should be laid to rest in Rome's most illustrious mausoleum, the Pantheon, which holds the tombs of two much-loved monarchs and of renaissance Master Raphael.

Republican Posts Minister Oscar Mammì, a member of Andreotti's coalition cabinet, said burying Victor Emmanuel in the Pantheon "would mean glorifying a head of state who stood by and watched the march on Rome (which brought Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini to power), the colonial adventures, the racist laws and the alliances which brought Italy to ruin."

The leading daily newspaper *La Repubblica* said that for once the veteran Andreotti, who has been prime minister five times before, had misjudged the mood of the country.

"He forgets that 1990 is not only World Cup year but also marks the 50th anniversary of Italy entering the war — the war of Mussolini — on the side of Hitler's Nazis, causing this country sorrow, indescribable suffering, appalling destruction and, as a consequence, a terrible civil war," the paper said in a front page editorial.

In a 1946 referendum, Italy abolished the monarchy in favour of a republic by a margin

of two million votes.

Umberto II had reigned for less than a month, following the abdication of his father Victor Emmanuel, totally discredited because of his close association with Mussolini.

Both monarchs went into exile and their male descendants were banned from ever returning.

Victor Emmanuel is buried in Egypt. His consort Queen Elena and Umberto are buried in France.

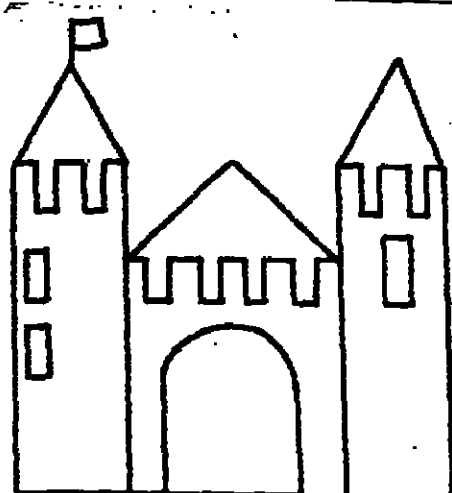
Most Italians now regard the return of the royal remains as overdue, but there is a clear division of opinion on whether they should be buried beside their more illustrious forbears.

Italian monarchists argue that the Pantheon, built by Roman Emperor Marcus Agrippa in 27 BC and consecrated as a Christian church in the seventh century, is the royal family's rightful dynastic burial place.

But their opponents say that Victor Emmanuel does not deserve to be buried in such exalted company. The first to turn in his Pantheon grave would be Victor Emmanuel II, first king of unified Italy, they say.

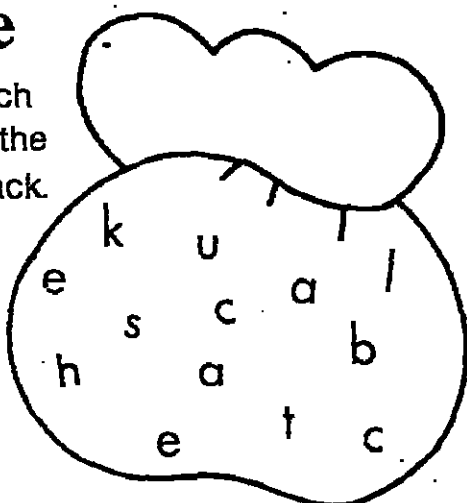
If the remains are laid to rest in the Pantheon, a place would also be reserved for Umberto's 83-year-old consort Queen Maria Jose, who lives in Switzerland.

هكذا اننا نعلم



The castle

Draw a line from each letter in the word to the same letter in the sack.



Just for laughs!

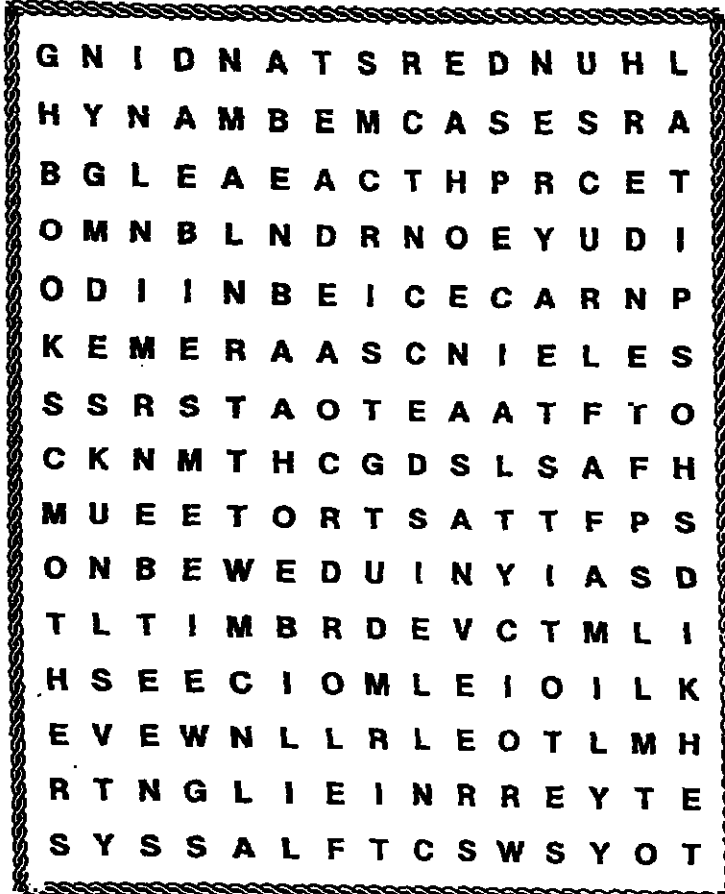
This man came up to me in the street. He said, 'I make my living pulling caic-cans.'
I said, 'You're a plucky man.'

This man came banging on our door in the middle of the night. He said, 'I'm in the final at Wimbledon tomorrow.'
My dad said, 'Well you should get some sleep.'
He said, 'I know but I needed a knock-up.'

Wordsearch

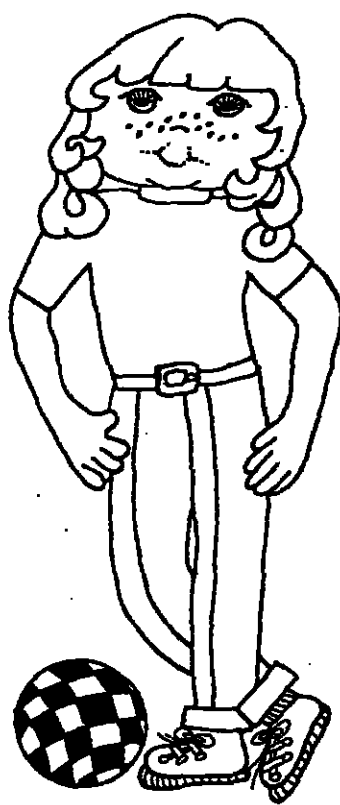
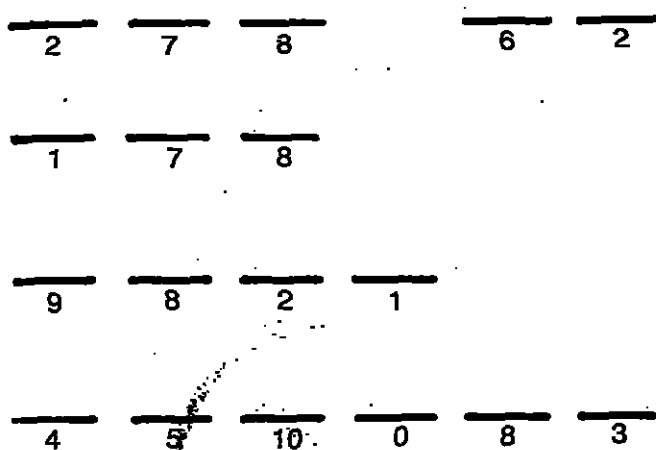
BABY DOCTOR

"Patients worry over the beginning of an illness; doctors worry over its end."
Chinese Proverb



ACTIVITY	DESK	MANNER	PATIENT	TENDER
AGES	DOLLS	MANY	REASSURING	TODDLERS
AILMENTS	EMERGENCY	MEDICAL	ROOMS	TOY
BABIES	FAMILY	MEETS	SMILE	TREATMENT
BOOKS	FILE	MOTHERS	SPECIALTY	UNDERSTANDING
CARING	FINE	NEWBORNS	STETHOSCOPE	WELL
CASES	HEALTH	NURSE	TABLE	
CUBICLE	HOSPITAL	OFFICE	TALK	
DAYTIME	KIDS	PATIENCE	TEENS	

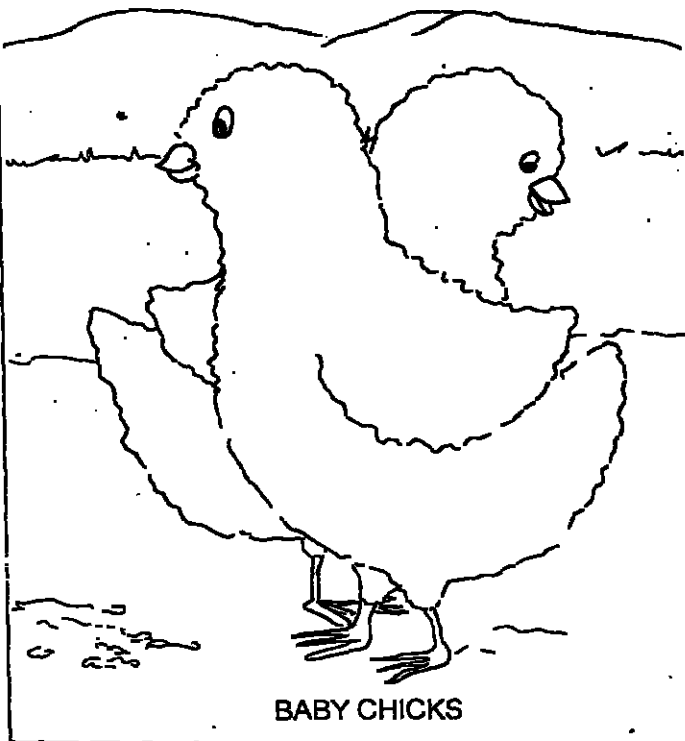
What Is Jennifer's Secret?



A	B	E	H	I	L
14	18	15	12	14	11
- 4	- 9	- 7	- 5	- 8	- 6
P	R	S	T	Y	
8	12	14	20	14	
- 4	- 9	- 12	- 19	- 14	

Find the answers to the problems. Each answer total has its own letter. (See box at top of each problem). Answer the question on this page by matching the answer totals to the letters.

Colour Time



BABY CHICKS

Firsts and lasts

The first propeller to be used on a ship was fitted in 1837.

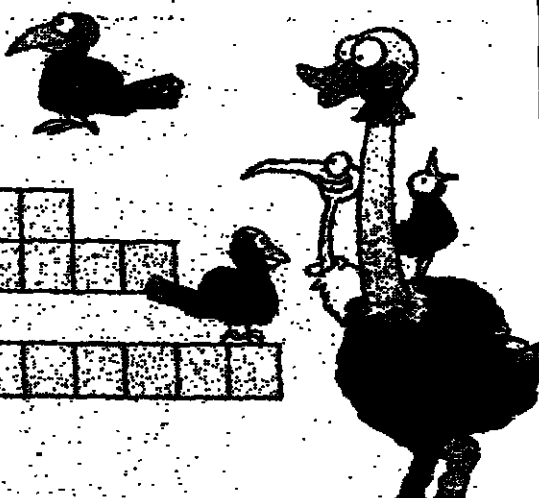
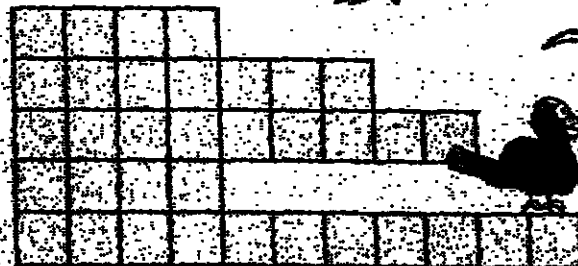
The first major change in the tactics of early warfare was not in the invention of any primitive weaponry, but the invention of the stirrup. This enabled men to balance better on their horses and thus fight more effectively.

The first windmills were in use in Persia in the year 600 AD.

Feathered friends

Unscramble the letters and write the names of these five birds into the grid. You will find that their first letters, read downwards, make the name of a sixth bird.

KOFO
TRISOOH
KRIECLABD
SIB
THINEAGUNG



My puppy Rover

I have a little puppy, who is very playful and fluffy. His name is little Rover, and he is white with black spots all over.

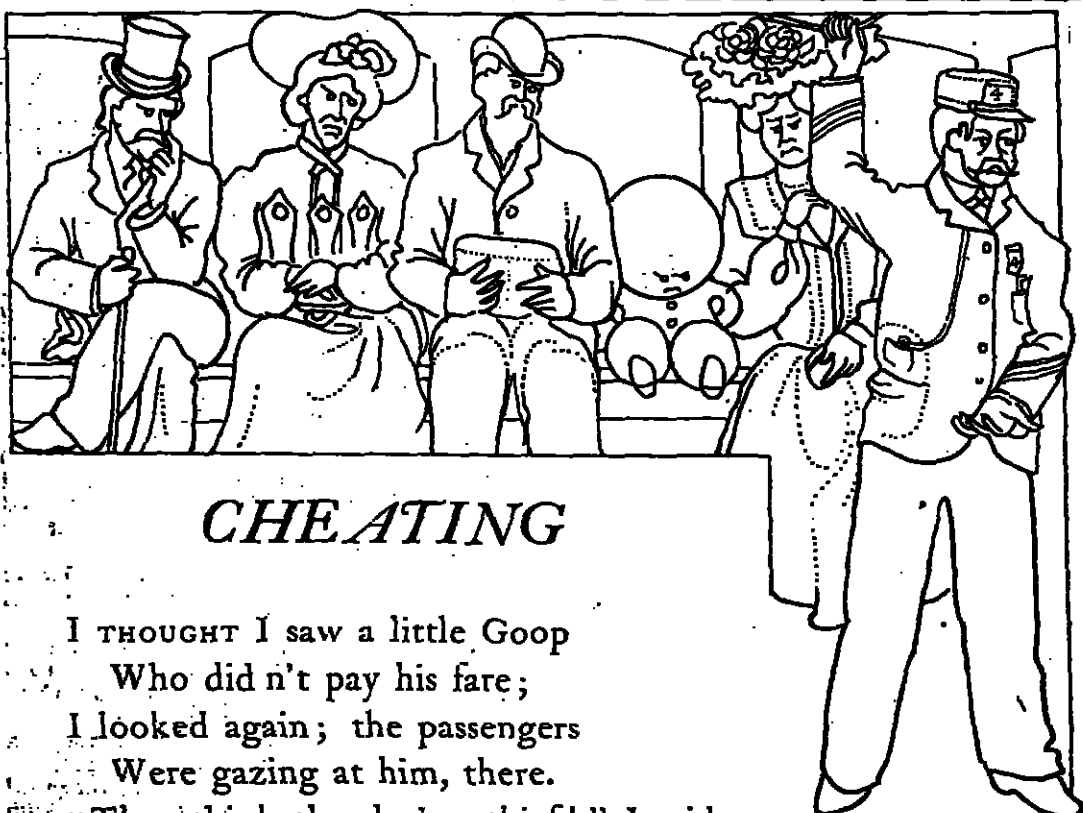
He always, from the newspaper man, brings in the Arab Times, and sits panting with his paw on my lap, as if he wants a dime! and when it is time to have some tea, my little Rover comes with me.

He guards my house all night long at the gate beside the big green lawns, and if by mistake he stamps on a flower bed, he sits very straight and mourns.

I love my little Rover, who is, I forgot to mention a bull terrier!

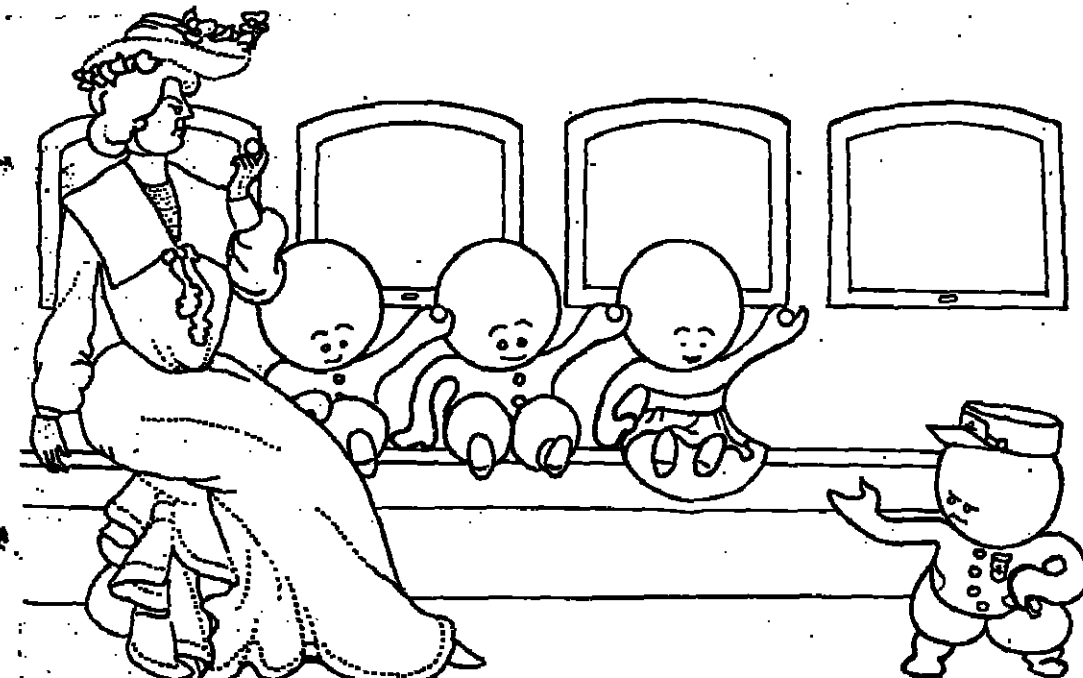
Farinaz Kabir,
Carmel School.

The Goops again



CHEATING

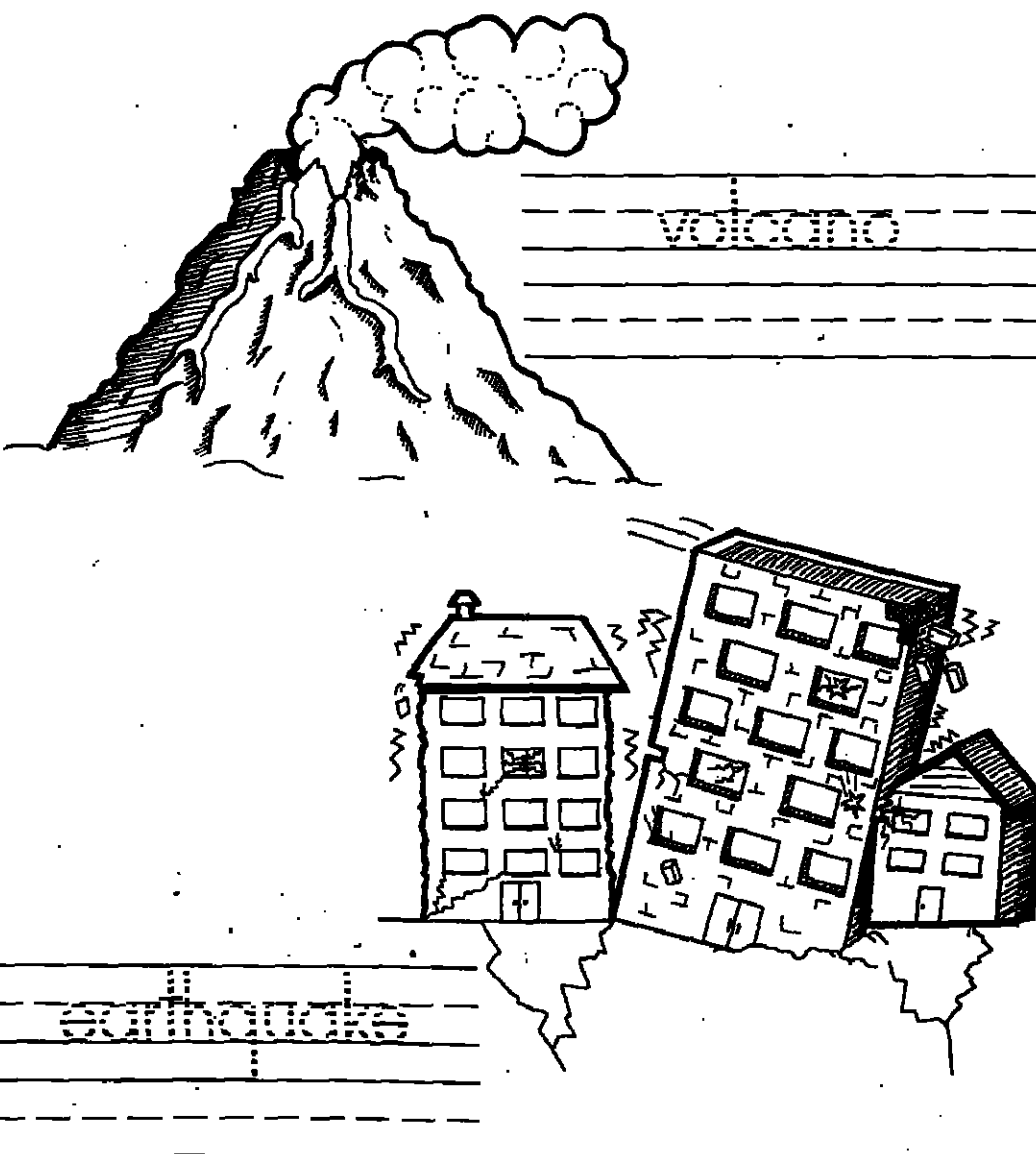
I THOUGHT I saw a little Goop
Who did n't pay his fare;
I looked again; the passengers
Were gazing at him, there.
"They think that he's a thief!" I said;
"I wonder does he care?"



Forces From Inside The Earth

The Earth is always changing. Forces inside the Earth push up to change the surface of the Earth.

Trace over each word. Print each word under the traced word. Say each word. Then, color the pictures.



Dear Junior Readers
Many of the things we have to do in life are not always very pleasurable, but there cannot be many people who do not enjoy two of life's absolute necessities: eating and drinking. But, as with everything else, there are right and wrong ways to do them. I am not only talking here about good manners, although of course, how you behave of the table, how you handle your food and even how you put it in your mouth are all important. What I want to say is that not eating and drinking in the right way can be very dangerous.
Do remember that eating and drinking and playing at the same time is just asking for trouble. If you are running and jumping around eating things like sweets or chewing gum, they can quite easily get stuck in your throat and choke you. If you are lucky, you will be able to cough them up, but then again, you may not be lucky. Another thing you should not do is eat or drink when you are lying on your back — you may think it is lovely to lie in bed sucking sweets, but that too can be a very dangerous thing to do. So is laughing and shouting when you have something in your mouth.
To be safe, sit quietly to eat and drink. It is not just good manners, it is good sense.

Manal

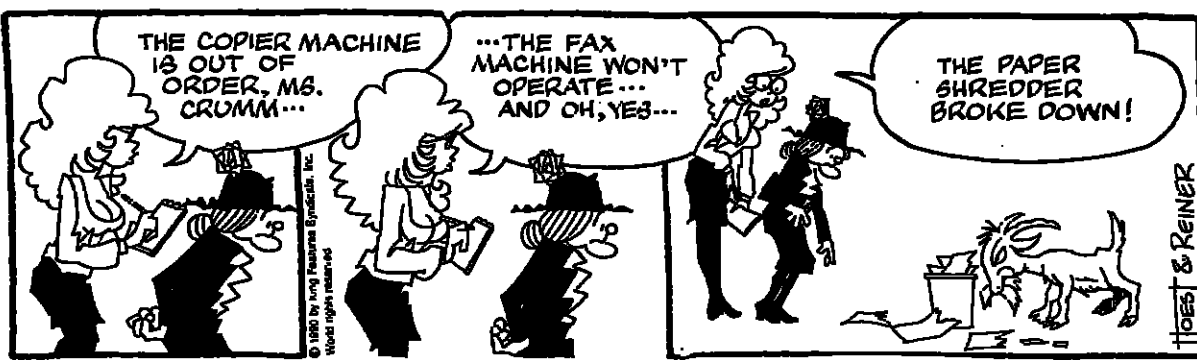
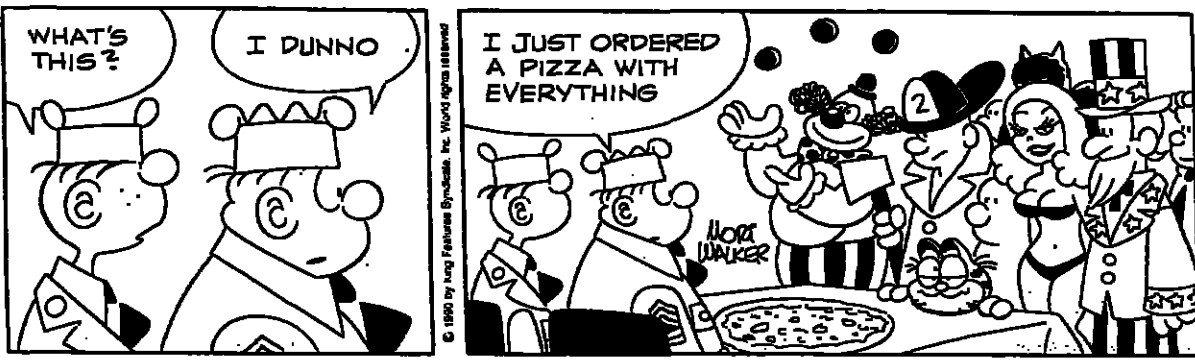
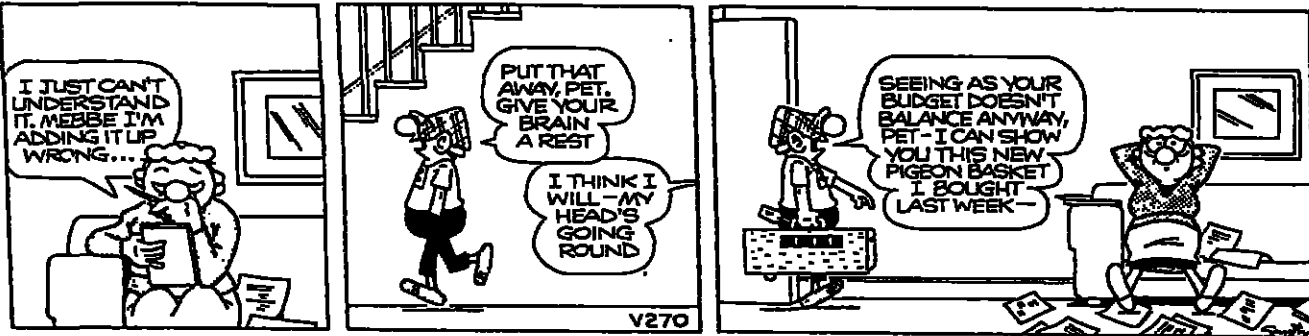
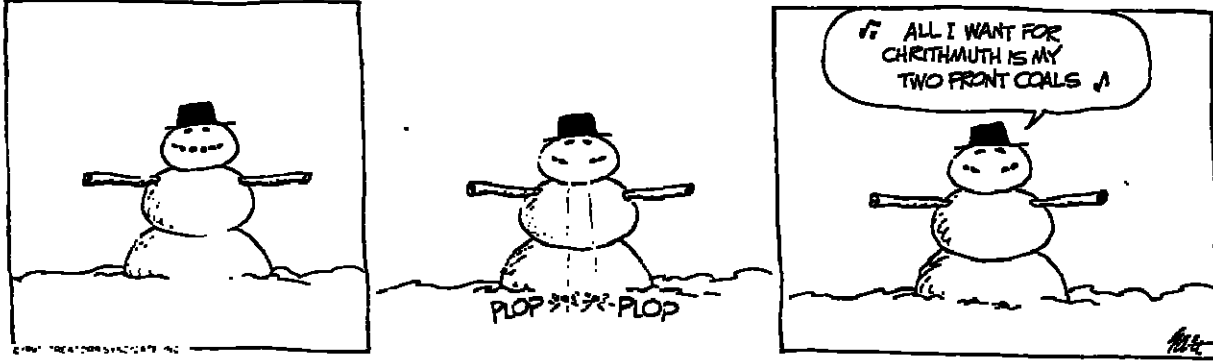
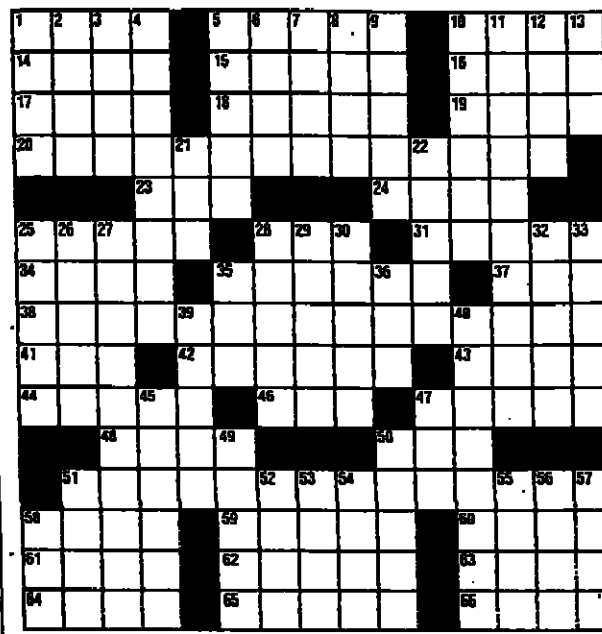
Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name: _____
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Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
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To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dave Coverly**AGATHA CRUMM** — By Bill Hoest**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Frank Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Forton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- Hockey position
 - Thin wire nails
 - Prohibitions
 - Jewish calendar
 - Contradict
 - See 39 Down
 - Sub — (confidentially)
 - Valuable violin
 - Melon cover
 - Eastwood's directorial debut
 - 1971
 - Cover
 - Release
 - Unspoken
 - Astronaut's affirmative
 - Cancel
 - Author Hunter
 - Disquiet
 - Corn lead-in
 - Kelly/Reynolds musical: 1952
 - Young one
 - Observe
 - War god
 - Paddock sound
 - Bat wood
 - Fashion
 - Require
 - Was in session
 - Kind of total insurance
 - Location
 - Craftiness
 - Gannon
 - University site
 - Force
 - Broadway musical hit
 - Pro —
 - Bone: Comb. form
 - Gratified
- DOWN**
- Prophet
 - Distort
 - Billy of rock
 - Space org.
 - Freshwater food fish
 - Intervene
 - Sleep stage abbrs.
 - Blind as —
 - Responsibility
 - Firm
 - Empty
 - Nourishing
 - Baseball team
 - Morose
 - Cambridge school letters
 - Speechify
 - Assays
 - Par —
 - Military station under the Raj
 - Author Loos
 - Avifauna
 - Sailing vessel
 - One of the archangels
 - Lentil, in Köln
 - Numero —
 - H. Rider
 - Haggard novel
 - Among other things, with
 - 16 Across
 - Poisonous snakes
 - Give back
 - Paulo
 - Painter of dancers
 - Swiftiness
 - "Exodus" author
 - Goddess of the moon
 - Serge scourge
 - "I cannot tell"
 - Dies —
 - Mention
 - Part of a decade
 - Fuss

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

LOST BESS ACTS
APAIL ANTE PART
BULLHEADED STOA
SALAD LIU EBDN
SILENCE UPS
PAD ACES FEWER
SNOB TASK EAGLE
INGRESS NESTLED
SAGES THEN SANE
ERNE ALTO RAN
AND EXALTED
LAME ALL REACH
ASEA COWCATCHER
TASS THAT SNARE
ELSE SAYS EROS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

BESPOTTED!

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ A 7 5

♥ K 9 7

♦ 9 8

♣ K Q 10 9 8

♠ 8 4 3

♥ 6 5 4

♦ K 10 7 5 4

♣ A 3

♠ K Q 9

♥ A Q J

♦ J 6 3 2

♣ J 7 6

The bidding:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

If we had to choose a theme song

for bridge players, it would be

"Can't Take My Eyes Off of You."

You have to watch every card that is

played.

Had North's five-card suit been a

major, it would have been wrong to

suppress it. However, since nine

tricks are usually easier to make

than 11, North opted for what he

expected to be a simple contract.

East rose with the ace of dia-

monds and returned the queen,

which was allowed to hold. Unfor-

tunately, East had no more dia-

monds. The spade shift was taken in

the closed hand, and declarer forced

out the ace of clubs. West cashed

the king of diamonds, but that was

the last trick for the defense. South

rattled off the rest to scrape home.

West was asleep at the switch.

Had that defender been watching

the spots, he would have realized

that, since the doubleton 9-8 of dia-

monds appeared in dummy, declar-

er had no spot card higher than the

seven, and could not hold more than

four diamonds.

That should have made the win-

ning defense easy to find. West must

overtake the queen of diamonds

with the king and continue with the

ten to force out declarer's stopper.

That gives declarer a diamond trick

which could not be established by

force, but inevitably leads to the

contract's defeat. South has only

seven fast tricks available, and must

set up two club tricks to make his

contract. However, West can grab

his ace as soon as the suit is led and

cash two more diamond tricks to

beat the contract one trick.

**YOUR STARS**Aries
March 21 - April 20

Others are liable to take the credit for what you have done. Never mind, you know what the real situation is and the truth will out. Do not expect others always to behave just as you thought they would. Be observant.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

If you are dealing with someone who drinks heavily do make sure you do not try to follow suit. If you do you will come out the worse for it. Trying to do too much at once will result in doing nothing well. Be more sociable.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You would be wrong to assume that everything will turn out well in the end. It will not unless you make an effort to ensure it does. Do not take any risks with your health. Be less demanding.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You will tire more easily and should do what has to be done first of all. Also make sure you get all the rest you need as well as sufficient exercise. Avoid saying one thing and then doing another. Be more moderate.

Leo
July 21 - Aug 21

If you tell others just what you think of them they are liable to take offense, so don't. And don't be offended if someone tells you a little of what he thinks of you. If wrong ignore it — if right remedy it. Be tactful.

Virgo
Aug 22 - Sept 22

You will know how to do better something done by someone else. However, do not make the fact too obvious and do not boast about it, just get on with it. Do something kind rather than something selfish or hurtful. Be reliable.

Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22

You must beware of exceeding limits whether in speed of safety or of propriety. And you should also avoid exaggerations and half-truths. At the same time do not allow yourself to be intimidated by the difficulties. Be generous.

Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

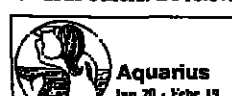
Something you had thought will happen but not quite in the way you had anticipated. Consequently you will have to revise your attitude and actions. If you try to spread a little kindness and comfort you will succeed. Be courteous.

Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 22

If someone shows you a new way of doing something you have always done in a certain way be prepared to consider it. And avoid doing things in a way because you have always done them that way. Take just a little more gentle exercise. Be tolerant.

Capricorn
Dec 23 - Jan 19

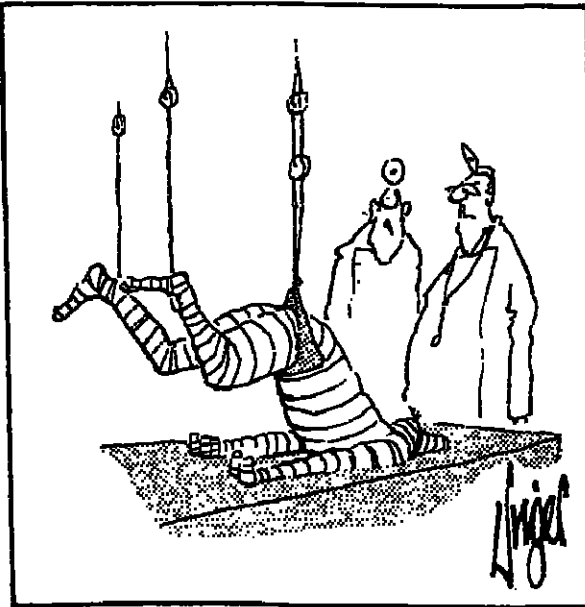
Work hard but do not allow work to become the dominating influence in your life. Your lucky numbers are 18 and 39. Check what you have done, mistakes are likely. Show a little more goodwill towards others. Be relevant.

Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 19

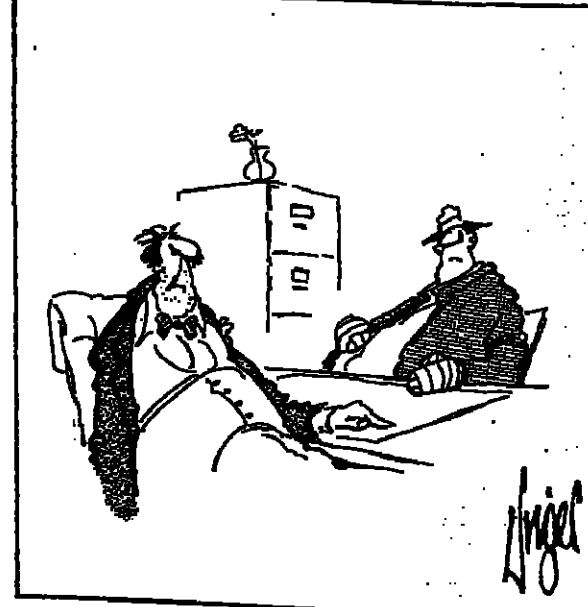
If you are not quite sure do not rely on guesswork. Instead do your best to clear up your doubts, and do not be too proud or shy to ask. Do not eat or drink more than you know you should. Be sincere.

Pisces
Feb 20 - March 20

You will be able to put your experience to very good use. Not only that it will enable you to do better than anyone else. However, if you try to throw your weight around you will not succeed any better than by using charm and persuasion. Be realistic.



"He says bullfighting is the only thing he's good at."



"Being stung by a jellyfish is a tough one, but I think we may be able to sue Jacques Cousteau."

Mecir surprises Emilio Sanchez in opener

BRUSSELS, Feb 14, (Reuters): Olympic champion Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia overcame third seed Emilio Sanchez of Spain 6-4 3-6 6-4 to reach the second round of the \$600,000 Belgian Indoor ATP Tennis Tournament yesterday.

Mecir, who has slipped to 39th place in

the world after being plagued by back and ankle injuries last year and is unseeded here, needed more than two hours to clinch victory over clay-court specialist Sanchez in a match worth a final in many a tournament.

"I've improved my game on this kind of surface but I still lack a bit of con-

fidence," Sanchez said.

Mecir, ranked number six in the world in 1987, said he was gradually recovering his strength and believed he would soon return to the top 20.

"I haven't lost contact with the top," he said in a reference to his fine match against Boris Becker in the fourth round

of the Australian Open last month.

Mecir lost in five sets to Becker, who is the top seed here and was to play his first round match this evening.

Mecir said he would stay close to his hotel during his stay in Brussels... "so that I don't get injured walking in the street."

Kay and Eagles triumph

IN THE fifth week of KISL play, Kay and Associates and the Eagles kept pace with their fourth victories of the spring season and UAS won its third game. Kuwait University, coming back from vacation, was knocked out of the unbeaten ranks with an 11-15 thumping from Kay. The UAS teachers dropped the FHWA Falcons, 16-8, and the Eagles slipped past the aroused All-Japan Bazooskas, 10-7. (In an upset on January 26, UAS beat the Eagles, 11-9.)

In this week's first game, KU jumped into a commanding first-half lead, 5-1, on seven hits, as the first five men up all scored, but could manage only four singles the rest of the way, as pitcher Fritz Cameron got KU to hit 16 fly balls. In KU's first, Jassim Yahia singled, Dave Cheskie homered to right, Ed Smith singled, Charlie Campbell doubled over the left-fielder's head and Jim Thames singled home the fourth run before anyone was out. Pitcher Clarence Jabs and Vic Mason added two-out singles to center.

Kay led only 6-3 going into the top of the seventh, but broke out for five runs on seven hits to put the game away. In the first, Cameron singled and Steve Diemler doubled him home. In the third, coach Lee Ehret and Diemler led off with singles for another run. Kay tied the game in the fourth on John Cox's leadoff single, Chuck Will's one-out single, Robbie Robinson's walk and Cameron's bases-loaded double to center. Kay broke the tie in the fifth with one on two-out singles from Reagan Miller, Cox and Stanley D'Souza. In the decisive seventh, Kay demonstrated excellent place-hitting in the clutch, as Tom Donnelly, Kevin Stevenson and Cod all singled up the middle, d'Souza singled to left, and with two out and an 8-5 lead, Robinson singled to center, Cameron tripled to the rightfield fence and Ehret singled to right.

In the second game, the Falcons led UAS, 2-0, after one inning as Lubin Quinones and Paul Scoggin singled with two out, coach Monte Symons and Bassam Bibi were safe on errors, and Bob Mitchell walked. UAS took a 3-2 lead in the second as Richard Downes was safe on an error, David Wood singled, Dave Lamb walked, pitcher John Dennis singled home two, John Heaslam was safe on an error, and Lorne Bradt singled home the third run.

Reached

In the third, the Falcons briefly retook a 4-3 lead, as Nigel Nightingale led off with a single, and with two out, Scoggin reached safely on an error and Symons, Bibi and Mitchell all walked. UAS roared back with seven. Dave Rojcek and Al Perry singled. Downes was safe on an error. Wood and Lamb doubled. Heaslam reached on an error, and Bradt and Ken Parker singled. In the fourth, the Falcons' Ihab Elayan got one back on a leadoff single, but UAS added two on singles from Jerry Cook, Rojcek and Perry, and three more in the fifth on singles by Bradt and Parker and Cook's triple to left.

FHWA came back with three in the sixth on Mitchell's third walk, singles by Jerry Cloud and Elayan and a two-out double by Nightingale.

In the day's final game, the Eagles jumped out to an early 8-1 lead by the third, only to see the Bazooskas roar back to trail by only 8-7 after five. Both teams went scoreless in the sixth and the visiting Eagles clinched the win with a final two in the seventh.

In the top of the first, one-out singles from Jeff Jugar and pitcher Al Rodier were followed by Skip Stombaugh's walk and James Alderman's game-winning, over-the-fence grand slam homer to right. KISL's second year, The Eagles added one in the second on singles from Dan Hudson, Wah Rodriguez and Jim Smith, and three in the third on singles by Jugar, Stombaugh and Hal Leighton and Hudson's double.

The Bazooskas began their comeback in the bottom of the third, as coach Aoki singled, Kato was safe on an error, Saitoh tripled, Toda sacrificed and Sumiya tripled but was left stranded. All-Japan made it close with four more in the fifth, on one-out singles from Kato, Saitoh, Toda and Nishimura, and errors to Sumiya and Pitcher Nakano. The Eagles' two seventh-inning runs came as, with two out, Dan Proctor singled, Jugar was safe on an error to Sumiya and pitcher Nakano. The Eagles' two seventh-inning runs came as, with two out, Dan Proctor singled, Jugar was safe on an error, and coach Rodier boomed a double to the base of the leftfield fence, to put away his fourth pitching victory.

Standings

	W	L	Pctg.
Eagles	4	1	.800
Kay	4	1	.800
KU	2	1	.667
UAS	1	2	.333
All-Japan	1	4	.200
Falcons	0	5	.000

Harvey stuns Sanchez

Navratilova routs Temesvari



Navratilova: had an easy game

CHICAGO, Feb 14, (Reuters): Local teenager Linda Harvey-Wild made a memorable professional debut yesterday with a shocking 6-3 7-6 upset of third-seeded French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario at the \$500,000 Chicago Tennis Tournament.

To the delight of Chicago fans, the 19-year-old from nearby Hawthorne Woods who turned professional a few days ago, survived a second set tiebreak rally by the fifth-ranked Spaniard to score her stunning first round win.

"She played well and beat me. After I won the French Open, everyone wants to beat me," said the bubbly 18-year-old Sanchez Vicario.

Top seed Martina Navratilova sailed through her first round match. She dismantled Hungarian Andrea Temesvari 6-1 6-3 in just 59 minutes.

Seven-seed Laura Gildemeister of Peru, however, had to go the distance after dropping a second set tiebreak 4-7. She went on to oust American Gretchen Magers 6-1 6-7 6-4.

Harvey-Wild went up a break in the fourth game of the first set, but a questionable line call rat-

ted her and she dropped her own serve in the seventh game. She regained her earlier advantage for 5-3 lead by breaking Sanchez Vicario in the next game and served out the set.

After a break-free second set, Harvey-Wild amazed fans by taking a commanding 6-1 lead in the tiebreak.

"I have to get up on her. I might choke," said the Tour's newest professional describing her thought prior to the tiebreak.

The third seed fought back with three perfect passing shots and a well-timed drop shot to pull to 6-5.

But the Spaniard let her 154th-ranked opponent off the hook with a double fault to end the match.

"Every player is tough," said Sanchez Vicario. "Right down to number 200."

Natalia Zvereva became the third seeded player to be beaten in the first round, with her 7-5 3-6 6-1 defeat by Kathy Rinaldi.

Zvereva, seeded sixth, could not combat Rinaldi's persistent baseline game.

Rinaldi, ranked 11th two years ago, is now ranked 49th in her comeback following a year's hiatus with a broken thumb.

Courier thrashes Cahill

TORONTO, Feb 14, (Reuters): Hard-hitting American Jim Courier showed no mercy in ousting Australian Darren Cahill yesterday but two more seeded players became first round victims at the Skydome World Tennis Tournament.

Courier, ranked 21 in the world, blew Cahill off the court 6-0 6-3 in just 58 minutes with punishing groundstrokes and a surprisingly accurate serve.

The 70th-ranked serve and volleyer appeared to have no answer for the ninth seed's superior firepower.

"I played pretty well and Darren definitely didn't play up to his capabilities," Courier said.

"I wasn't expecting it to be as easy a match, but you take 'em when you get 'em."

Courier was the only seed to break into the second round of this \$1.2 million event yesterday as two of his countrymen — 12th seed Jim Grabb and 15th seed Pete Sampras — joined a list of early upset victims that brought to six the number of seeded players to go out in the first round.

The tournament's top eight seeds, including Ivan Lendl and John McEnroe, were given byes into the second round.

Grabb appeared well on his way to the second round after he

cruised through the first set 6-1. But Czechoslovak Marian Vajda fought back tenaciously and took a second-set tiebreak 7-5 and controlled the third set to win the deciding 6-3.

"I started bad," said the 117th ranked Vajda. "But I kept in mind to be patient from the baseline, keep serving and fight like a dog to try and break him."

Sampras became the fourth player forced to retire with an injury when he aggravated a groin muscle he had pulled last week in Milan. Sampras retired after dropping a first set tiebreak 8-6 to New Zealand's Kelly Evernden.

Record set in Empire State building run-up

NEW YORK, Feb 14, (AP): A native New Yorker set a record yesterday for racing up 85 flights in the annual Empire State building run-up.

Scott Elliott, 25, won the race up the 1,575 steps in 10 minutes, 47 seconds.

The previous record for men, 10:59.7, was set by Peter Squires in 1981.

This year's female winner was Suzanne Malachos, 28, of Perth, Australia, who came in at 12:27. She won last year as well, setting the record for women with a time of 12:25.

Interviewed a few hours after the race, Malachos, who works for the Athletic Association of Western Australia, said her biggest physical complaint was "a bit of a sore throat from breathing all that cold air at the top."

"I don't train on any stairs," she added. "I just stick to my normal running programme on roads and cross country."

The Empire State building run-up has been held since 1978. Robin Rishworth of Melbourne, Australia, the defending champion, was second among the men in 11:02.



Sheikh Fahd honoured

Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed (3rd right), chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, recently received Kuwait International Hotel's general manager Hermann Simon, resident manager Antoine Sayesh and P.R. manager Adnan Saad, when they visited him to thank him for his great efforts during the Peace and Friendship Games. They also presented him with a plaque engraved with his poem written on the occasion. At the same time Mohammed Othman and Abdul Hameed Mohammed were also thanked for their efforts.

Bird helps Celtics outclass Rockets

HOUSTON, Feb 14, (AP): Larry Bird missed a free throw in the third quarter, snapping his consecutive free throw string at 71, but he scored 38 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead the Boston Celtics to a 107-94 victory over the Houston Rockets last night.

Bird wound up seven short of the NBA record for consecutive free throws.

Akeem Olajuwon led the Rockets with 22 points and 17 rebounds. Otis Thorpe had 24 points and 14 rebounds.

Bulls 107, Heat 95
Michael Jordan scored seven of his 26 points during a 13-point second-quarter run that sparked the Chicago Bulls over Miami 107-95 despite a franchise-record 40 points by the Heat's Rony Seikaly.

Chicago led 49-43 when a 3-point play by Jordan started the burst that ended with the Bulls

ahead 62-43 with 1:27 left in the first half.

Seikaly also set a franchise record with 25 first-half points and had 10 of Miami's 20 fourth-quarter points.

Knicks 114, Hawks 109
Patrick Ewing scored seven of his 31 points in the final 3:07 to stop Atlanta rallies and New York defeated the Hawks 114-109 for the Knicks' sixth straight victory.

It was the Knicks' third victory in as many meetings with the Hawks this season, giving New York a 2-0 sweep in Atlanta for the first time since 1974-75.

Results
New York 114 Atlanta 109
Detroit 106 Denver 96
Indiana 128 Charlotte 105
Chicago 107 Miami 95
Boston 107 Houston 94
Dallas 103 San Antonio 96
Utah 110 Minnesota 104
Portland 110 Seattle 106
Phoenix 118 LA Clippers 96
Sacramento 106 Washington 98

Norman chases 6th title

MELBOURNE, Australia, Feb 14, (AP): Greg Norman will be chasing his sixth Australian Masters golf title in 10 years when the tournament begins tomorrow over the par-73, 6,798-yard Huntingdale course.

Norman has previously won the tournament in 1981, 1983, 1984, 1987 and 1989 but his rivals this week include US Masters champion Nick Faldo of Britain, two-time US Open champion Curtis Strange of the United States and in-form fellow Australian Peter Senior.

Senior ended 1989 with wins in the Australian Open, Australian PGA and Johanne Walker Classic, and a win on Sunday would lift him into the top 20 on the world rankings for the first time in his career.

Faldo, Norman and Strange all played in last weekend's Australian Super Skins at Port Douglas, but trailed behind Japanese star Jumbo Ozaki in the money stakes.

Norman interrupted a practise round today to film a television commercial and part of a documentary, but said he was "feeling confident."

The defending champion said his score of "a couple under" in yesterday's Pro-am was of no significance.

Americans Gene Littler and Mark O'Meara are the only non-Australian winners of the event in its 12-year history.

Along with Norman and Senior, Wayne Grady, Craig Parry and Ian Baker-Finch head the Australian challenge.

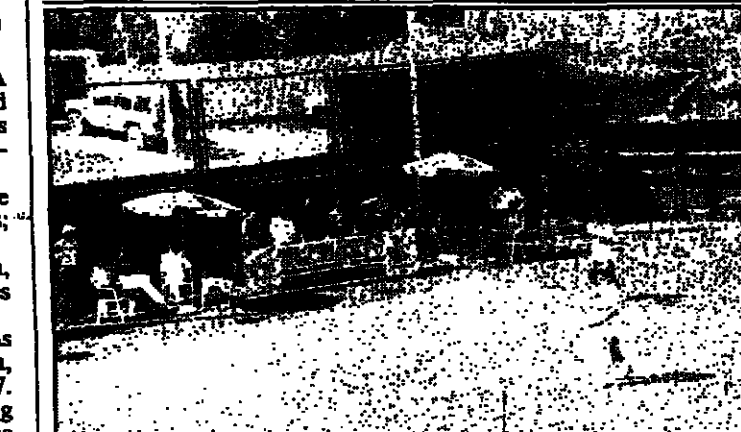
Senior said today he believed he was playing well enough to win.

"I'm hitting the ball from tee to green probably as well as late last year and my swing is definitely back to how it was," he said.

"I probably played as well as I can towards the end of last year and it's just nice to be playing that way again."

Grady said he was refreshed after a two-week break on a barrier reef island.

After winning the US Tour and reaching a playoff for the British Open title last year, Grady said he now wanted to consolidate and break into the US top 20.



Invitation tourney

Messilah Beach Hotel, managed by Kuwait Hotels Co., in co-operation with National Bank of Kuwait under the patronage of Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah, Governor of Kuwait City will inaugurate their new tennis courts with an Invitation Tennis Tournament tomorrow.

The tournament under the supervision of the Kuwait Tennis Federation is a doubles event: men and mixed. The top seeded players, both men and women, have been selected together with the cream of the diplomatic corps.

The first match will commence at 9.30am with the finals being played at 3.30pm.

During the day the spectators will be fed with refreshments, ice cream, snacks, chocolates provided by leading companies in Kuwait and B.B.C. lunch provided by the hotel.

Many free prizes will be distributed on the day.

Senna's silence deafening as deadline approaches

Mansell would quit if involved in another black flag row

PARIS, Feb 14, (Reuters): As the deadline approaches for Ayrton Senna to eat humble pie in order to drive in this year's Formula One Grand Prix season, the silence from the Brazilian former world champion is deafening.

Senna has until tomorrow to retract publicly his allegations that last year's world championship was fixed in favour of then McLaren team-mate Alain Prost.

The International Motor Sports Federation (Fisa) said yesterday they would publish the official list of Formula One off-season drivers on Friday. The betting within the sport is that Senna's name will not be on it.

Fisa president Jean-Marie Balestre said last month Senna would not be granted his super-licence to compete unless he acknowledged that allegations he made after his disqualification from last October's Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka were wrong.

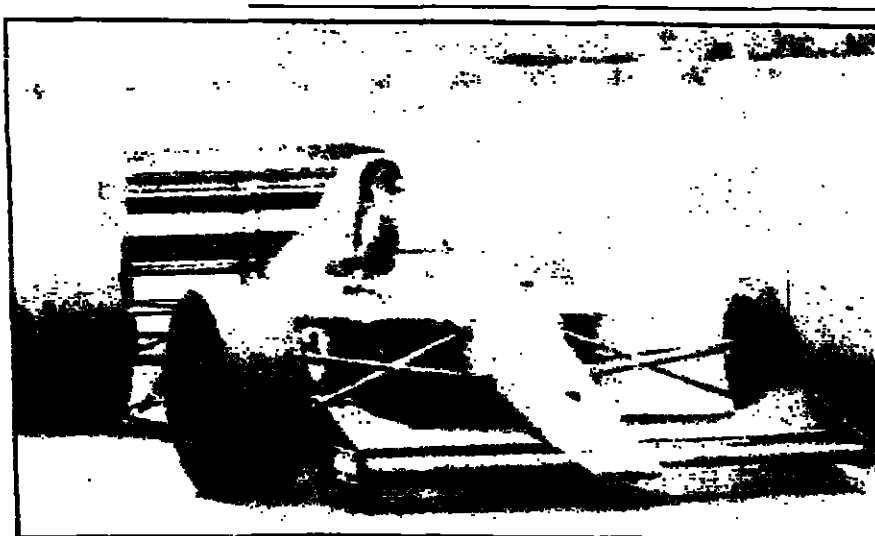
Since then, the Brazilian has studiously avoided all comment on a dispute which has dominated about their drivers' applications for super-licences. A spokesman said both drivers were due in Britain for a car launch and press

conference on February 22 and he believed Senna was still on holiday in Brazil.

Fisa spokesmen said yesterday they had been ordered to say nothing about the issue which appears to have developed into a power struggle between Senna and Fisa, or rather between McLaren and the tempestuous Balestre.

Balestre told the sports daily L'Equipe: "I don't have the least news about Ayrton Senna. I draw no conclusions from that. I am firm and calm."

"I recall that the world council simply asked for a statement that it had been proved to him that the 1989 world championship was



Mansell winning the 1989 Hungarian Grand Prix.

perfectly correct and that the information he received was baseless.

"The only thing we have noted is that, for several weeks, Senna has been perfectly calm in his statements. That's to his credit. But at the moment, McLaren has only one car in the world championship."

That car will be driven by Austrian Gerhard Berger but it is unthinkable that the 1988 world champion should not be in the other. Senna was in contention for the title last year until his Suzuki disqualification after a crash with race leader Prost.

He was fined \$100,000 and given a six-month suspended ban

for dangerous driving. Prost took the world title before switching to Ferrari.

Sponsors, already heavily committed for this season, would be unwilling to accept the absence of the spectacular Senna driving for McLaren, who have dominated Formula One since 1984.

The silence of Senna and McLaren has sent the motor racing rumour market into full-scale activity. Some suggest McLaren are adopting a tough stance to force Fisa to back down and, perhaps, even provoke the downfall of Balestre.

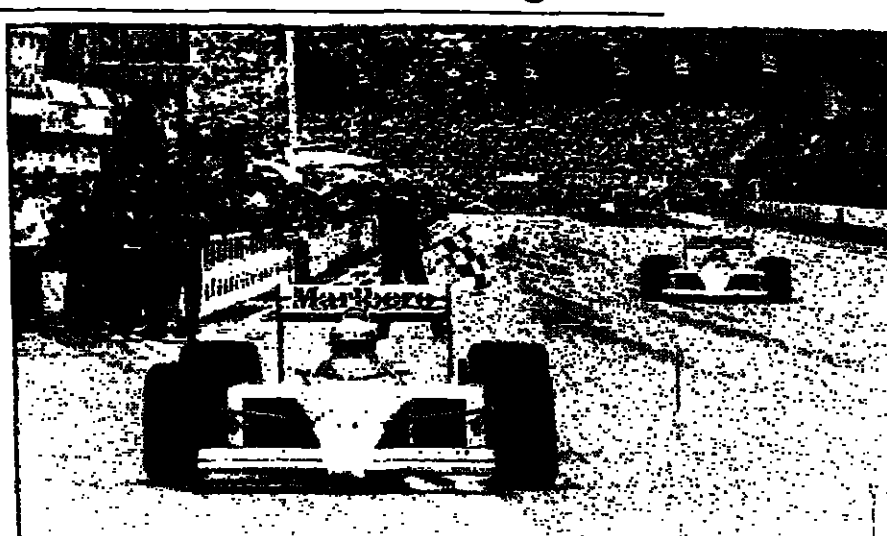
Others advance the theory that McLaren are seeking a confronta-

tion with Fisa in the hope of starting a breakthrough race circuit which other major teams would be likely to join.

The possibility has also been mooted that McLaren will juggle the rules of nominating someone other than Senna alongside Berger.

They could then withdraw the nominee shortly before the first race at Phoenix, Arizona on March 11 and name Senna as replacement driver.

Though the rules limit the number of times replacements can be used, once Senna was literally in the driving seat it might prove tough to remove him.



Senna (left) winning a race last season.

both drivers out of the race. Senna later accused Mansell of suicide driving.

Yesterday, Mansell called for sanity and peace in the Formula One pit lane this season and said he regretted the controversy and doubt still surrounding Senna's presence in the 1990 world championship.

Mansell said: "It would be a great loss to racing if he was not to take part this year. He is a truly fast driver and has won the championship."

"But I am not sure about his disposition. He thinks he has contact with someone up above and that is not always a good thing for the rest of us."

Mansell said he expected his Ferrari car, complete with a revised chassis and engine, to have 60 horsepower more this year than last — an advantage which he felt would help him to mount a serious championship challenge.

He said: "There is a fantastic feeling at Ferrari right now and everyone is very positive. I've never seen Alain (Prost) so enthusiastic and committed and we shall have some really good fun going for the title this year."

Mansell said he would be modifying his style. "This year, I shall be aiming to finish at least 13 races and to be looking to score at least 11 of them."

"We had a lot of reliability problems last year and they were our downfall. You can't win points if you don't finish races and this year I will be playing the percentage game."

One-leg wrestler remains unbeaten

STRAITFORD, Wisconsin, Feb. 14, (AP): A youth who lost a leg in a farming accident five years ago and has gone on to become an accomplished wrestler bristles at being called handicapped.

"I don't even like the word handicapped," said Bill Flink. "It is labelling a person. Everyone is the same. A person is a person."

But Flink is a person who has achieved the extraordinary. With a 28-0 record this season, he hopes to become Stratford High School's state wrestling champion.

Before wrestling, Flink removes his artificial limb and then keeps on his knees, never standing to give opponents a chance to take advantage of his instability. He said he's quicker and stronger than many other 105-pounders (47 kilograms) who generally are younger and less physically mature.

He forces opponents to adjust to a different style of wrestling because they reach around to grab his leg and it "just isn't there," said Flink's coach, Cal Tackes.

"Sometimes you catch yourself marvelling at how good he is and how far he has come," Tackes said. "It is amazing the ability he has with only one leg... He is going through life accepting these challenges instead of running away from them. That says a lot about his personality."

Removed
When Flink was 12, his left leg got caught in a silo auger while he was feeding cows. The rotating wheel ripped off his foot and shredded the leg, which doctors removed at the knee.

Now 17 and a senior in high school, Flink describes simply why he goes to the mats.
"I want to win bad. I like the feeling," he said in an interview last week.

Flink's mother, Louanne, remembers the day of the accident — March 11, 1985 — when he climbed down a 50-foot silo with a leg chewed apart.

"He almost died on us," she said. "He was so glad to be alive. I think that is why he has overcome so much. He has gone through a lot of pain, but he has won."

Flink wears his artificial leg most of the time in public and walks with a slight limp.
About a year after the accident, Flink's parents and twin brother, Scott, encouraged him to try wrestling.

Mrs Flink said it was difficult for her son the first time he competed before a crowd because he hopped on one leg and was noticeably different than his peers. But he ignored it.

"He said he just pretended no one was really there," she remembered.

Flink says he is motivated to win the state title, and that he wants to compete in wrestling in college.

"I want to win the state championship for my mom and dad," he said. "I love my mom and dad. They have been real supportive."

East German coach quits

EAST BERLIN, Feb. 14, (Reuters): East Germany's chief athletics coach Ekkard Arbeit has quit after just over a year.

The East German news agency said yesterday Arbeit, who took over the job shortly after the 1988 Seoul Olympics, had resigned because of the general situation in the country and "several contradictions he faced in carrying out his office."

Arbeit's resignation comes three days after the country showed unusually poor form at a six-nation indoor meeting in Paris, where their men's team finished last and their normally powerful women's squad could manage only third place.

Sport, which held a high priority in the eyes of the state's former rulers, has seen its future threatened since the communists lost their grip on power at the end of last year.

E. German stars trained for glory in bunkers

EAST BERLIN, Feb. 14, (Reuters): Many of East Germany's sports stars tuned their bodies for Olympic success by training in secret underground bunkers capable of simulating altitude conditions of up to 4,000 metres (13,000 feet).

Sports officials said yesterday the bunkers, built in 1979 under the village of Kienbaum near East Berlin, helped men and women from sports like athletics, rowing, cycling and cross-country skiing boost their stamina before major events.

Altitude training, commonplace among many of the world's top athletes, helps speed up the transport of oxygen around the body.
The bunkers were not used to replace altitude training, said Juergen Klupsch of the East German Sports Federation DTSB. "But

they made it much easier for athletes to adapt faster when they went to compete or train at altitude."

He added: "About 20 people would train there at one time and many of the athletes for the last Seoul Olympics had the opportunity to go there. Until now they have always been kept a secret."

The hardline East German leadership that fell last year used sport to boost its standing in the world and kept training methods and facilities such as the Kienbaum bunkers secret.

The two pressure chambers, opened to the East German media for the first time yesterday, are each about half the size of a basketball court and cost about some 16.5 million marks (\$10 million).

Kienbaum officials said they believed the

chambers were some of the biggest in the world and they were planning to hire them out to athletes from outside East Germany for the first time, probably at about 300 marks (\$180) an hour.

West German athletes are certain to be first on the list to try them out after the two states signed an agreement last week to compare notes on sports science. The deal was part of moves to bring together the two states' sport worlds.

Vacuum pumps help reduce the amount of oxygen available in the chambers to altitude conditions.

Treadmills for running and rollers for skiing are provided for athletes to train on.

East Germany has risen to prominence as one of the super-powers of Olympic sport in

the past 20 years. East German athletes won the second highest number of gold medals in Seoul.

Twenty-km walk champion Peter Frenkel said he used pressure chambers to train for his gold medal at the 1972 Olympic Games.

"I trained in peace right up until the event in the pressure chambers," Frenkel said. "I then got into an overnight train for Munich the day before the event, had lunch, went to the Olympic arena to get warmed up and after 20 kms arrived back in the stadium first."

The 51-year-old Frenkel, who bettered the Olympic record by almost three minutes in his Munich triumph, said the success of the chambers encouraged East German sport officials to go ahead with the construction of Kienbaum during the 1970s.

Former champion seeks rematch

Tyson praises Douglas

NEW YORK, Feb. 14, (Reuters): Mike Tyson had some trouble getting the words out at first yesterday but he admitted that he was the former heavyweight champion and paid homage to James "Buster" Douglas who knocked him out on Sunday.

"I'm the champ... uh, the former champion," said Tyson at a news conference. "Just give me a rematch. That's all I ask for. Things will be a lot different."

Tyson, wearing dark glasses which hid the "slight abrasion on my eye, which is not very attractive," sat beside his promoter and advisor, Don King.

King had called the news conference to respond to the swirl of accusations that he had been responsible for boxing's principal government bodies holding up immediate recognition of Douglas as the undisputed champion for his 10th-round knockout of Tyson in Tokyo on Sunday.

"You win the title in the ring and you lose it in the ring," Tyson said. "I wouldn't want the title on a changed decision... I'm just saying Mike is not going over the deep end or anything."

King denied he had ever asked the World Boxing Association or the World Boxing Council to withhold recognition. The two governing bodies yesterday officially recognised Douglas as the new world heavyweight champion. The International Boxing Federation had immediately recognised Douglas as the champion.

King said he only protested after the eighth round when he claims Douglas received a long count after Tyson had knocked him down.

"We're withdrawing all protests. We never asked anyone to modify or change any decision," King said.



Tyson point to the cut near his eye during the conference. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tyson was asked why he lost the fight.

"Regardless of the reasons, I'm not the champion anymore. My objective is just to get the title back," he said. "He fought very well. He had a great night and I commend him on his effort. It was great, it was splendid."

King said he did not yet have a deal for number-one contender Evander Holyfield to surrender his right to meet Douglas in the new champion's first defence in favour of Tyson getting a rematch first.

Douglas' manager, John Johnson, disputed a published

report that billionaire Donald Trump already had a contract for a rematch in Atlantic City.

"They can't do anything without my blessing," Johnson said in a telephone interview from his Ohio home. "Don King is not calling the shots anymore. We are."

"I think that Don King and I will probably work things out providing everything is in James Douglas' best interests. I'm sure it will be," Johnson said. "I'm hanging up on Don King now, instead of Don King hanging up on me."

Holyfield's manager, Dan Duva, told Reuters earlier in the day he has been discussing with King the possibility of Holyfield stepping aside for "much more" than \$3 million.

Shelly Finkel, an advisor to Holyfield, said at the news conference that Holyfield would step aside and fight the winner of a Douglas-Tyson rematch if the deal were right.

"I would consider anything if it makes sense — makes dollars," Finkel said.

Holyfield had been scheduled to fight Tyson on June 18 in Atlantic City and there is wide speculation that a deal will be made for a Tyson-Douglas fight to fill that date, with Holyfield taking on the winner in November.

Tyson was asked for his impressions of the bout after he had reviewed the video tape of his first defeat in 38 fights.

"Ah, I fought a bad fight," he said, breaking into a wide grin, exposing a flash of gold covering one of his front teeth. "I don't want to take anything away from this champ. He fought a great fight."

Tyson was asked if he had lost the intimidation factor.

"I never used intimidation,"

Tyson said. "I won fights because I was the best fighter in the world. I still believe I'm the best fighter in the world. Just give me another chance."

World Boxing Council president Jose Sulaiman, calling himself a "broken man," admits he made a mistake in withholding recognition of Douglas as heavyweight champion, a WBC official said yesterday.

"I am proud he has recognised he made a bad judgement when Douglas beat Mike Tyson in Tokyo and has rectified it," WBC international secretary Duane Ford said in an interview. "I spent up to 1:30 on the phone with Jose Sulaiman this morning. He said he was an extremely humble and somewhat of a broken man."

Ford said it was never Sulaiman's intention to deny Douglas the right to the championship.

"I believe his intention was to hold off declaring Buster Douglas the champion until the WBC executive committee had heard all the evidence, had seen the film of the fight and could then decide," Ford said.

"But Sulaiman's action smacked of withholding the title permanently. It was interpreted that way," Ford said.



Solemn captain

A solemn English cricket team captain Mike Gatting listens to a press conference on Tuesday in Johannesburg, in which a South African Cricket Union spokesman said that the rebel England tour was to be curtailed. (Reuters wirephoto).

S. Africa recall Rice

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 14, (Reuters): South Africa have brought back former captain Clive Rice for the one-day matches against England's rebel cricketers which begins in Pretoria on Friday.

Rice, controversially sacked and dropped from the team two weeks ago, was named yesterday in a squad of 13 for the series.

The series has been shortened to four matches instead of six in a compromise deal with anti-tour protesters who in turn have promised not to attempt to disrupt the remaining games.

The South African Cricket Union (Sacu) earlier announced the cancellation of one-day matches in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth and also a second five-day match in Cape Town which was to have started on Friday.

Four of the team which last week beat Mike Gatting's rebel team inside three days in what will now be the only five-day game of the tour have been omitted from the squad.

South African-born former Australian Test batsman Kepler Wessels has been left out at his own request following a dispute over his eligibility.

Three others to be dropped are wicketkeeper Ray Jennings, all-rounder Brian McMillan and off-spinner Dave Rundle.

Four new Springbok caps have been named in the squad. Mark Rushmere, who hammered two undefeated centuries against Gatting's team in an earlier tour match, is included along with talented batsman Daryl Cullinen.

The new wicketkeeper is Trevor Madsen and paceman Fanie de Villiers is also named.

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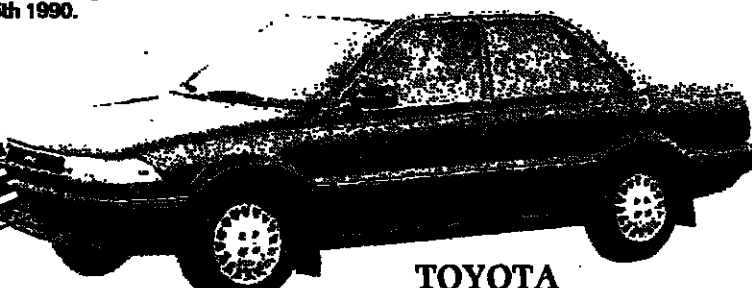
Who will win the Arab Gulf Cup?

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Australia overcome France

Argentina dash India's hopes



An action shot from last year's Filipino Palero basketball games, which ended in controversy over the interpretation of rules and ultimately ended in the formation of KPBL.

KPBL games start tomorrow

THE Kuwait Finoy Basketball League (KPBL) is set and ready to start tomorrow at 8:30 am at the Keifan High School Gym, Keifan. The following 10 teams are entered in this basketball tournament: 1. Al Ghanim Freight & Travel; 2. Kay and Associates; 3. KDD — Kuwait Danish Dairy; 4. KHC — Kuwait Hotels Co./Bayan; 5. KPBC — Kuwait Pre-Fab. Bldg Co.; 6. KRP — Kuwait Regency Palace; 7. Burgan Int'l Travels (formerly LOT-EEI); 8. Nissan Al Bahrain; 9. Overland Transport Co.; 10. Trico Int'l Door To Door.

All these teams shall see action after the brief opening ceremonies in a first ever (in the entire history of Filipino basketball in Kuwait) "One-Day Championship." Up for grabs in this unique/historic event are the following:

1. Champion's Trophy; 2. First Runner-Up's Trophy; 3. Second Runner-Up's Trophy; 4. MVP Trophy; 5. Best Uniform Trophy.

The event will also be highlighted by the selection of "Miss KPBL" — the most beautiful and charming of the players of the participating teams. The organisers have also decided to recognise the most outstanding player in each match by naming him "The Mabuhay Best Player Of The Game." He will be entitled to a Gift Certificate courtesy of Madame Florence Delos Santos, manager and owner of the Mabuhay Restaurant and Saloon. Other sponsors for the events are: Al Rashid Freight and Sharp Electronics.

The organisers invite all basketball enthusiasts to take time out from their weekend schedules to be a part of this sports spectacular. Participants should be at the venue at 8:00 am to accommodate the day's busy schedule.

In a related development, the following sentiments have been echoed by some of the participants.

Al Ghanim Freight and Travel (Bong Leonor): "The KPBL fits well into our company's policy of promoting brotherhood and camaraderie amongst its employees."

Kay & Associates (Romeo Velayo): He hopes that the "KPBL" will be purely sports, and that the organisers will see to it that they wouldn't be involved in politics.

KDD — Kuwait Danish Dairy (Romeo Ramirez): "The one-day League is a good idea! This will allow all of us to have a sneak-preview of the things to come in this tournament, make the necessary adjustments, if necessary."

KHC-Bayan (David Brooks): "We've been waiting for this League to start, and now that it's finally going to do so, we're really glad and management is 100 per cent behind us. We are ready!"

KPBC (Abdullah Tiffouni): "We are not prepared for this League! We might have uniforms but we haven't been practicing lately. We didn't think that the League will push through considering all the problems of the organisers, nevertheless, it is, so we wish them the best, and honestly hope that they will avoid all mistakes that have happened in previous tournaments. We will try to be as competitive as before."

KRP — Kuwait Regency Palace (Albert Arriola): "At last, KPBL is going to start, this will surely ease the homesickness of our co-employees, especially the new ones."

Burgan Int'l Travels (Danny Caoli): "We are ready for this tournament and we honestly wish the best for the organisers."

Nissan Al Bahrain (Cris Priolo): "Our line-up is probably the weakest from among all the participating teams, nevertheless, we're glad to be involved in 'KPBL' cause we love basketball."

Overland Transport Co. (Edgardo Espiritu): "My co-workers are very eager to see what this 'KPBL' is all about!"

Trico Int'l Door To Door (Alfred Babiera): "I hope that they've got more qualified referees and officials this time around."

The Arab Times will be covering the KPBL in full and a detailed report shall appear in Sunday's issue.

LAHORE, Pakistan, Feb 14, (Reuters): Former world champions India's hopes of re-establishing themselves as a leading hockey nation suffered a blow today when they lost to Argentina in the seventh World Cup tournament.

Argentina won their group A match 5-3 after India had led 2-0 in 19 minutes and 3-2 early in the second half.

Indian players were evidently upset by placards and chants from a small section of the crowd protesting at New Delhi's attempts to suppress a Muslim uprising in Kashmir.

The revolt is a major issue in Pakistan, which rules part of the divided Kashmir region, and Indian players have been given special police protection.

After a shaky start, the Argentines played with great flair to achieve their best ever result over India, who will now be lucky to qualify for the semifinals after earning only one point from two games.

Lax Argentine defence helped India to an early 2-0 lead with goals by Jude Felix, from a long corner in the seventh minute, and Jagbir Singh in the 19th.

Fernando Ferrera, a 23-year-old living in Spain, brought Argentina back into the game, played in swirling fog, with two goals.

The second, in the 33rd minute, was a brilliant individual effort.

Ashok Kumar regained the lead for India in the 39th minute, scooping in a penalty corner to make it 3-2.

But two goals by Carlos Geneyro, one from the penalty spot and the other from a penalty corner, put Argentina in front again at 4-3. Substitute Alejandro Doherty made the final score 5-3 with a goal in the 68th minute.

Australia defeated France 3-1 in their second match to move to the top of Group A ahead of the Netherlands, who also have maximum points, on goal difference.

As in their match against Argentina yesterday, Australia snatched a result in a game that was evenly contested.

Christian Viala gave France a seventh minute lead, but Australia came back powerfully.

Stephen Davies, Australia's new centre forward, scored their first two goals and Greg Corbitt added a spectacular third near the end.

Olympic champions and World Cup silver medalists England recorded their second successive win of the tournament when they beat Canada 2-0 in Pool B.

Nick Thompson opened the account for England by scoring

the first goal in the third minute of the game. His compatriot Martin Grimley added the second goal in the 26th minute of the play.

West Germany, one of the three favourites to win the World Cup title, beat Spain 2-0 in Pool B, in the fourth and last match of the day. West German captain Schmidt-Opper gave the lead when he tore apart the Spanish defence and flicked the ball into their goal. His compatriot Saliger netted the second goal.

Spanish goalkeeper S. Grau, and his teammates, put up a brave defence to restrict the super-fit West Germans to two goals.

As a result of this victory, the West Germans now have four points from two matches, as have hosts Pakistan in Pool B.

Standings

Group standings in the men's World Cup hockey tournament today (tabulate under — played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points)

Group A	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Australia	2	2	0	0	7	2	4
Netherlands	2	2	0	0	7	3	4
Argentina	2	1	0	1	6	7	2
India	2	0	1	1	4	6	1
Soviet Union	2	0	1	1	3	6	1
France	2	0	0	2	2	5	0

Group B

P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
West Germany	2	2	0	6	1	4
Pakistan	2	2	0	8	4	4
England	2	2	0	4	0	4
Ireland	2	0	0	2	4	0
Spain	2	0	0	2	3	0
Canada	2	0	0	2	1	0



Grimley got one for England

Lamba takes Seniors Cup

IN the February medal competition held last Friday at the Hunting and Equestrian Golf Club, K.S. Lamba (15) won the Senior Cup event with a fine round of 70 — two strokes ahead of his nearest rival. The Senior Cup was a separate part of the main event, the medal competition.

In the main competition, K.H. Chung (6) won the division "A" medal with a score of 69 edging out J.H. Kim (9) who had a 70 and club vice captain Peter Benham (13) who carded 72. K.H. Chung had lowest gross of the day with 75.

The division "B" medal was won comfortably by H.R. Chang (20) who carded 61, the best round of the season. In second place K.S. Lamba (15) had 70 and D.R. Jang with 71.

In division "C" Y.K. Lee (24) carded 67 to nose ahead of Q. Qattani (26) with 68 and K.K. Lee (25) (no relative) who had 70.

In side competition Samir Baluja produced the most accurate drive of the day when his tee shot on the par 3 thirteenth landed 30 inches from the hole to win nearest to the pin contest.

In the longest drive competition, C.K. Lim's drive was almost 290 yards down the fairway on the par 4 fourth and won him this event for men. While for the ladies Sigrid Sawires was again a winner on the par 4 tenth hole.

Sulayem confident and raring to go

DOHA: When the 1990 Fisa Middle East Championship is flagged off from the Corniche in Doha today, defending champion Mohammed bin Sulayem will be wearing the smile of a man who has done all his homework.

For the past week the Winston Toyota star has been familiarising himself with the rock-strewn route in his attempts to get off to a flying start in this year's regional series with victory in the NBK Qatar International Rally, the first of six rounds.

According to his experienced Irish co-driver, Ronan Morgan.

Sulayem now knows the punishing 687-km route that lies ahead as well as any of the 21 Qatari competitors.

"Because drivers like Michel Saleh have more powerful cars than ours, it is important that Mohammed and I know the route inside out," said Morgan, who will tackle the gruelling route alongside Sulayem in the Group A Winston Toyota Celica GT-4.

"We have gone over the pace notes time and time again in order to find the best way to handle the 20 special stages, it

may not be the most glamorous aspect of rallying, but it is something that has to be done if you want to get an edge," he added.

"Even a one second advantage can mean the difference between first and second place."

Despite starting today's rally as favourites and No. 1 seeds, Sulayem and Morgan face a difficult opening day against the battle-hardened Group B cars like Saleh's Audi Quattro and Qatar's Jaber Al Mari are all expected to make their charge on the first day, while rising stars like Nassir Al Attiya and Fahed Bin Mubarak of Qatar will be eager to confirm their growing reputations.

Although barred from the championship points table, the Group B vehicles are still eligible to compete in regional rallying and their reliability could prove crucial over the 371-km of special stages littered with loose and fixed rocks.

But the confrontation which is expected to dominate the first day is between Sulayem in the Winston Toyota and fellow-UAE driver Suhail Khalifa in the Group A Mitsubishi Galant VR4.

Khalifa, the reigning Masafi 4WD Rally champion, is still battling against a back injury which had threatened to spoil his challenge, but the No. 2 seed is expected to take his place behind Sulayem when the 36 starters get away from the Doha Corniche at 12 noon today.

"If the Galant performs as well

on its Middle East debut as it has done in Europe then we will have a major fight on our hands," said Morgan. "But rallying in the Gulf is completely different so it will be interesting to see how Suhail fares."

With such a high-quality field for the first rally of the year, the prospects for a classic battle are good. Saleh, Khalifa, Oman champion Tony Georgiou, and Qatar's Jaber Al Mari are all expected to make their charge on the first day, while rising stars like Nassir Al Attiya and Fahed Bin Mubarak of Qatar will be eager to confirm their growing reputations.

Despite the impressive line-up, Morgan believes there is no substitute for experience.

"Mohammed and I been together for a long time now and we have proved we work well as a team. We are expecting a fast and difficult rally, but that won't worry us. We will go flat out over the first few stages to see how the car, and the opposition, react."

The rally returns to the Ramada Hotel for an overnight halt at around 5:45 pm, before resuming at 9 am tomorrow (Friday). The leading cars are expected back at the hotel at 5:30 pm tomorrow.

SPORTS BRIEF

British soccer

LONDON, Feb 14, (Reuters): Results of English League soccer matches played yesterday:

Division Three		
Crewe	0	Cherter
Halsfield	3	Fulham
Preston	0	Leyton
Shrewsbury	1	Blackpool
Swansea	1	Birmingham
Wigan	0	Bury

Postponed because of waterlogged pitches: Bolton v Huddersfield, Brentford v Cardiff, Bristol City v Northampton, Notts County v Bristol Rovers, Walsall v Rotherham.

Division four		
Carlisle	1	Exeter
Doncaster	0	Lincoln
Hartlepool	1	Southend
Scunthorpe	0	Gillingham
Wrexham	1	Rochdale
York	0	Stockport

Postponed Aldershot v Peterborough, Burnley v Chesterfield, Cambridge v St. Albans, Colchester v Grimsby, Torquay v Hales.

Italian Cup

ROME, Feb 14, (Reuters): Results of the second leg semifinal matches of the Italian soccer cup Monday:

Division		
Roma	3	Juventus
Napoli	1	AC Milan

Juventus and AC Milan contest the two-leg final on February 28 and March 14.

Al Mulla Cup

THE semifinals of the "Al Mulla Mitsubishi Cup" organised by United Cricketers will be played tomorrow at Al Hamadi. On the New Ground in the morning at 0900 am. Starline last Unity and umpires will be (1) each from Kifco/Evershine. In the afternoon on the same ground, beginning at 1.10 pm. Evershine clash with Kifco and umpires nominated are (1) each from Starline/Unity. Players of all teams are requested to be early to enable a prompt start.

Egypt draw

CAIRO, Feb 14, (Reuters): Egypt drew 0-0 with Denmark today in a soccer friendly forming part of Egyptian preparations for the World Cup finals in Italy.

French player

PARIS, Feb 14, (Reuters): Luis Fernandez, a member of the magic four-man midfield which brought France soccer glory, said in an interview published yesterday that he would refuse a call-up from former team mate Michel Platini.

RESULTS of the Messilah Ladies Bridge Club game played on Monday:

1. Nabil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite
2. Nuba Khalaf & Lela Kouddim
3. Joan Hashim & Evelyn Montano

Results of the Regency Bridge Club game played yesterday morning:

1. Donna Materny & Clara Bastiere
2. Margaret Maynard & Suzanne Cattermole
3. Rima Ayyad & Ghofran Mikail

Results of bridge game held on Tuesday:

1. Mousalli & R. Samaha
2. M. Sabri & Dr. Oskay
3. Dr. Adel & Mrs. Donna

E/W

1. Ravi & Merchant
2. Patricia & D'Souza
3. Mrs. and Mr. Solovsky

Marathon bridge will be held at Regency Palace tomorrow at 3.00 pm.

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